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AS WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE TURNS 450, WE COMPARE HIS PORTRAYAL OF THE ABYSS TO QUENTIN TARANTINO'S PAGE 37

Flood love doesn't bear much fruit

No baby bumps. Service Alberta birth data at odds with urban legend

BRYAN WEISMILLER
bryan.weismiller@metronews.ca

Despite a popular urban legend, it seems many southern Albertans were too busy rolling up their sleeves to drop their pants after last year's historic floods.

Provincial data provided this week conflicts with the folklore around the influence of large-scale natural disasters on birth rates.

There were, however, some flood-inspired romps.

Rola Bathory's son, Aydin, was born in the first week of April — making the youngster one of the city's so-called flood babies.

Like many flood-stricken Calgarians last June, Bathory and her beau found themselves buckling under the stress of mopping up basement floors, shelling out for repairs and sorting out insurance claims.

Then they went away for the Canada Day long weekend.

"We just decided to get away, go camping and get our minds off of it," she said. "And nine months later ..."

Figures from Service Alberta show no significant year-over-year spike in Calgary births 40 weeks after the deluge. At least 1,652 babies were born in the week after March 27 this year, according to ministry data sent in an email.

That was up from the previous four-year average for the seasonally busy birthing period but not a steep jump in the context of the city's population growth.

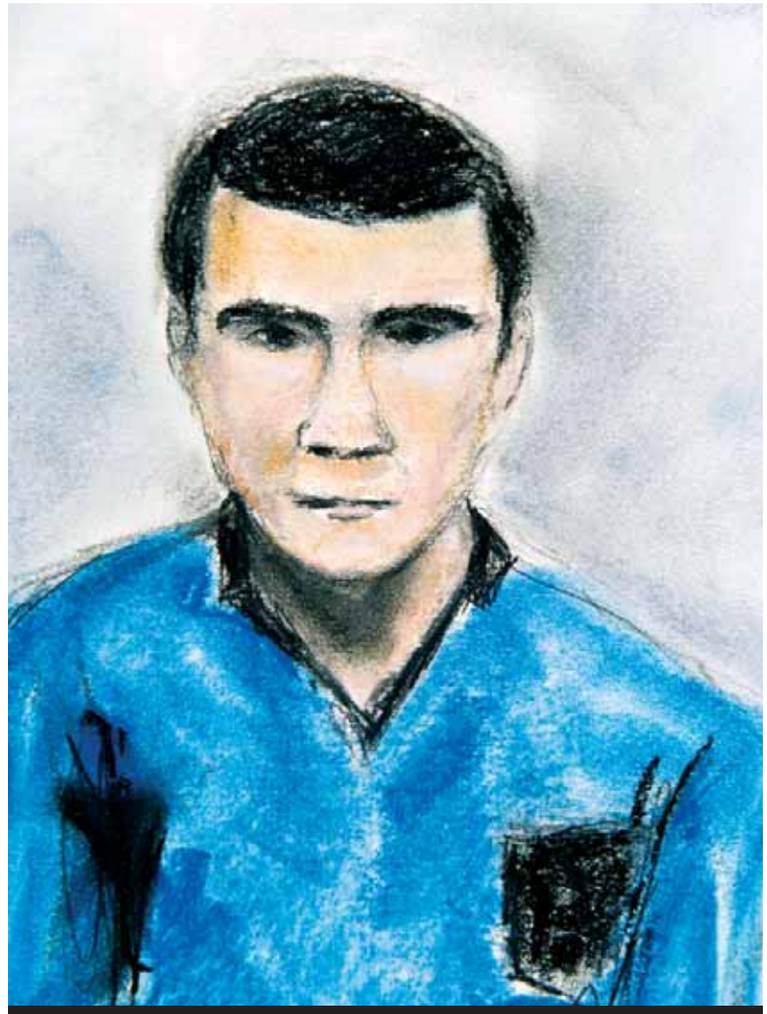
Flood-ravaged High River reported a drop in births compared to the previous four years over the same period.

The data only provides a snapshot as pregnancies can vary around the average 40-week due date.

There are studies that both support and reject the theory that catastrophes are related to conception. Some researchers say natural disasters bring people closer together and create more intimate settings.

But University of Calgary professor and pop culture expert Rebecca Sullivan cast further doubt, saying such urban myths are just fantastical reconstructions of everyday life.

"We can believe there are crocodiles in the sewers of New York, just as we can believe that — during the flood — everyone was having amazing sex," Sullivan said. "It's not out of the realm of possibility and it adds a level of fantasticness to an already liminal moment."



MASS-MURDER SUSPECT FOUND FIT FOR TRIAL

The young man accused in Calgary's worst-ever mass slayings was declared fit for trial Thursday after undergoing a 30-day court-ordered psychiatric assessment. More about Matthew de Grood's court appearance, page 4. JANICE FLETCHER/THE CANADIAN PRESS

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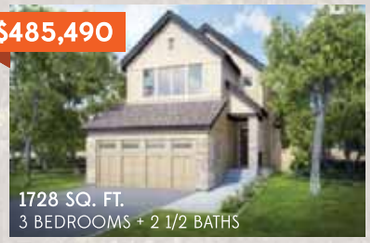

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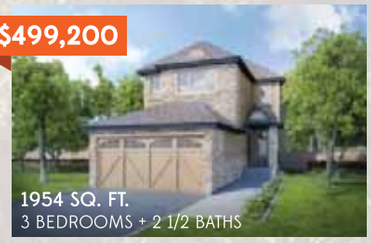

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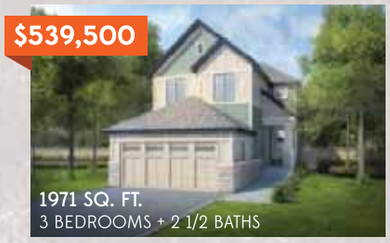

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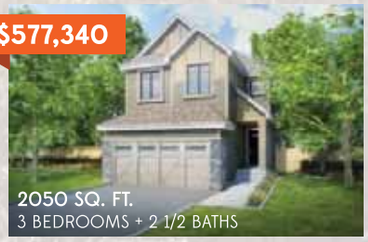

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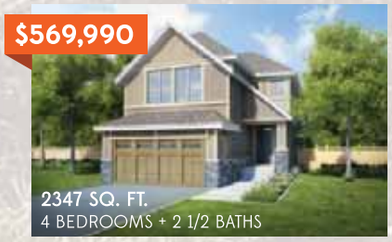

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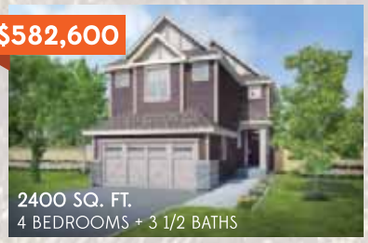

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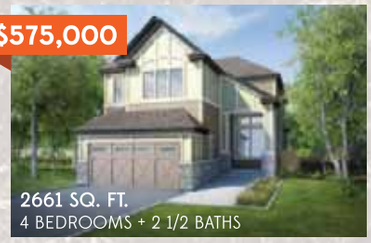

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GENESIS

NEWS

Data collector Barney Fegyverneki uses a clipboard to help count bus passengers entering downtown via the Centre Street bridge Thursday afternoon. ROBSON FLETCHER/METRO

Data-driven policy draws on old-fashioned counting

Eyes on the road.
Traffic counters get the job done with new tech or pencil and paper

ROBSON FLETCHER
robson.fletcher@metronews.ca

In a shaded car on the side of a road, Barney Fegyverneki sits, counting traffic.

As Calgary's second-longest-serving data collector — with 24 years on the job — he's become adept at quickly calculating the number of riders on a bus or how many people just passed by in a crowd of pedestrians.

Still, during rush hour, it's no easy task.

"The toughest thing is probably the concentration," he said Thursday during a lull in tallying transit vehicles. "Literally, the mind can only handle so much for so long."

The work may not be glamorous but it's invaluable to the City of Calgary.

The numbers he and about a dozen other data collectors crunch help determine things like which intersections get traffic lights and which streets get cycle tracks.

The latter was a matter of contentious debate this year, with some city councillors questioning the validity of cyclist counts that cycle-track proponents used to bolster their case.

Transportation data manager Ekke Kok, however, has little doubt about the accuracy of his team's numbers.

The crew just wrapped up its annual "cordon count" of traffic flowing in and out of downtown, hitting 21 locations for 16 hours a day over a period of two and a half weeks.

It's a count they've been doing since the 1960s, and while Kok said each day's count offers a "snapshot" that can be influenced by things like the weather, he's confident the aggregate data is solid and "super confident" in the cyclist and pedestrian counts, specifically, as they're easier to enumerate than groups of passengers in vans or buses.

For more complicated counting, data collectors employ a multi-button device specially designed for the task.

Joseph Cheung, who's been on the job since 1998, said he doesn't even need to glance at the control panel anymore and can keep his eyes trained on traffic while tapping away.

"It's like a video game," he said.

For his particular role Thursday, Fegyverneki used an old-fashioned pencil and paper but, regardless of the technology, he said the goal is the same.

"The crew prides itself in being as accurate as possible."

Data collector Joseph Cheung uses a proprietary device designed by the city to count motor vehicle, pedestrian and cyclist traffic. ROBSON FLETCHER/METRO

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No. 1 buns. YYC Burger Week winners announced; next up — Pizza Week

The bout for best burger in town has come to a close, and the winners have been crowned.

Thirty Calgary restaurants competed in the battle from May 2-10, and the winners were Flipp'n Burgers in the $10 category, Craft Beer Market for the $15 burger, and Notable in the $20 bracket.

"The final number of burgers came out to roughly 15,000 (sold)," said YYC Burger Week organizer Terrence Lo.

Craft Beer Market not only took the crown for one of the best burgers, they also sold the most burgers at 1,441 and raised the most for the local charity, Autism Aspergers Friendship Society of Calgary, at just over $2,000.

"It was a great feeling," said Craft executive chef Eric Mah. "There's a lot of great chefs and a lot of great restaurants."

While Burger Week has wrapped, Lo said food-loving Calgarians can look forward to YYC Pizza Week, which is on the books for September.

"It's going to be based on a battle between thin crust, American-style … and what we're calling unique," said Lo, adding unique pizzas could range from dessert pizza to sushi pizza.

He said a website and further details for YYC Pizza Week should pop up this summer. **KATIE TURNER/FOR METRO**

Craft Beer Market's Brant Lake Wagyu Burger was a YYC Burger Week winner. COURTESY YYCBURGERWEEK.CA

One year later

City plans flood commemoration

Nearly one year ago was Calgary's worst natural disaster, and the city hopes the public will help commemorate the event.

The City of Calgary will recognize the one-year milestone with a public commemoration ceremony on June 20.

"This is an opportunity for sombre reflection on the floods that struck Calgary and the continued impact on many in our community," said Mayor Naheed Nenshi. **METRO**

Workshop

Park makeover input sought

An existing green space in line for a makeover needs public input, says the city.

A workshop will be held May 24 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the park, located on 16th Avenue between 11th and 12th Street S.W.

The city is after input that will ensure the redevelopment addresses community needs and adds to overall vibrancy.

Joan and John Thomson, who both grew up in the community, have donated $2 million to help with the upgrades. **METRO**

Mass murder suspect Matthew de Grood is pictured on a stretcher after police confirmed five people were stabbed to death at a house party in Brentwood on April 15. GLOBAL NEWS/THE CANADIAN PRESS

De Grood declared fit to stand trial

Quintuple slaying. Lawyer for accused in Calgary's worst mass murder says court may still rule on criminal responsibility

BRYAN WEISMILLER
bryan.weismiller@metronews.ca

Doctors have deemed accused mass killer Matthew de Grood fit to participate in a trial, although he will stay at a psychiatric centre until his mental health improves, court heard Thursday.

Defence counsel Allan Fay explained the court may still rule on whether his client was criminally responsible in the quintuple slaying.

"Being fit to stand trial only means he can understand the process and can instruct counsel," Fay told reporters.

"You can still be very profoundly mentally ill and still be fit to stand trial."

De Grood briefly appeared in court via closed-circuit TV for the first time since being ordered to undergo a 30-day assessment.

The 22-year-old will remain at the Southern Alberta Forensic Psychiatry Centre until he's due back in court on July 22.

In the meantime, lawyers on both sides will review the "voluminous" evidence gathered during the investigation, according to Edmonton-based Crown prosecutor Neil Wiberg.

"There's so much disclosure; instead of giving a thousand pages, the police produced it on a hard-drive that includes video statements with witnesses, audio statements," Wiberg said outside court.

De Grood has been charged with five counts of first-degree murder after attending an end-of-semester party on April 15. It's alleged the young man went to the party after work and, after mingling with guests, proceeded to go on a stabbing rampage.

Killed in the attack were University of Calgary students Joshua Hunter, Jordan Segura and Lawrence Hong, as well as Alberta College of Art and Design student Zackariah Rathwell and friend Kaiti Perras.

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Brainasium. Telus Spark to show kids the gravity of the situation as they play

This rendering of The Brainasium shows the 19-metre slide that will be built outside Telus Spark. COURTESY TELUS SPARK

Calgary's science centre will soon have an outdoor space where kids can test gravity first-hand on a 19-metre slide.

Telus Spark will open an outdoor playground this summer dubbed The Brainasium.

"There's a lot of playgrounds in Calgary, but what makes this different is it's a place where you're going to definitely be learning something as you're engaging," said Telus Spark spokeswoman Cassondra Dickin. "It's going to have opportunities to explore physics and sound and music."

The highlight of the park will be a tower that's nearly as tall as the Spark building itself, complete with a slide down to the ground.

Kids will also be able to communicate from a far distance using what Spark calls Whisper Dishes, listen to the sounds high above the earth with Big Ears and play on a three-way teeter-totter. Dickin said they'll be welcoming new exhibits to the space as well.

The park is currently under construction, but Dickin said they expect to open The Brainasium in July.

KATIE TURNER/FOR METRO

Five-week downtown drug sweep leads to 23 arrests

Operation Wunderland. Nearly 200 charges laid after community complaints prompt police to tackle dealing, accompanying violence

KEN VAN DE WALLE
calgary@metronews.ca

Nearly two hundred charges were laid in a five-week sweep of suspected street-level drug dealers in downtown Calgary that was prompted by concerns from members of the community.

Dubbed Operation Wunderland, the police action began in March and continued through April.

While a marginal amount of drugs were seized, police said the deployment focused on curbing the activity itself and the corresponding escalation in violence that comes with territorial disputes.

District 1 Insp. Cliff O'Brien told reporters his office had received several calls from community members specifically complaining about the rampant drug activity in the area.

"As well what we saw at the same time was an escalation in violence within the district. We knew that a lot of that violence was directly related to drug trafficking," said O'Brien.

"It's not a coincidence that we saw an escalation in violence at the same time we were seeing this escalation in drug trafficking."

During the operation, officers seized 34.6 grams of marijuana, 14.4 grams of crack cocaine, 3.5 grams of powdered cocaine and 2.1 grams of methamphetamines.

Twenty-three people were charged with 86 offences, and warrants were issued for 12 others in connection with the raid.

District 1 Insp. Cliff O'Brien of the Calgary Police Service talks about Operation Wunderland on Thursday. KEN VAN DE WALLE/FOR METRO

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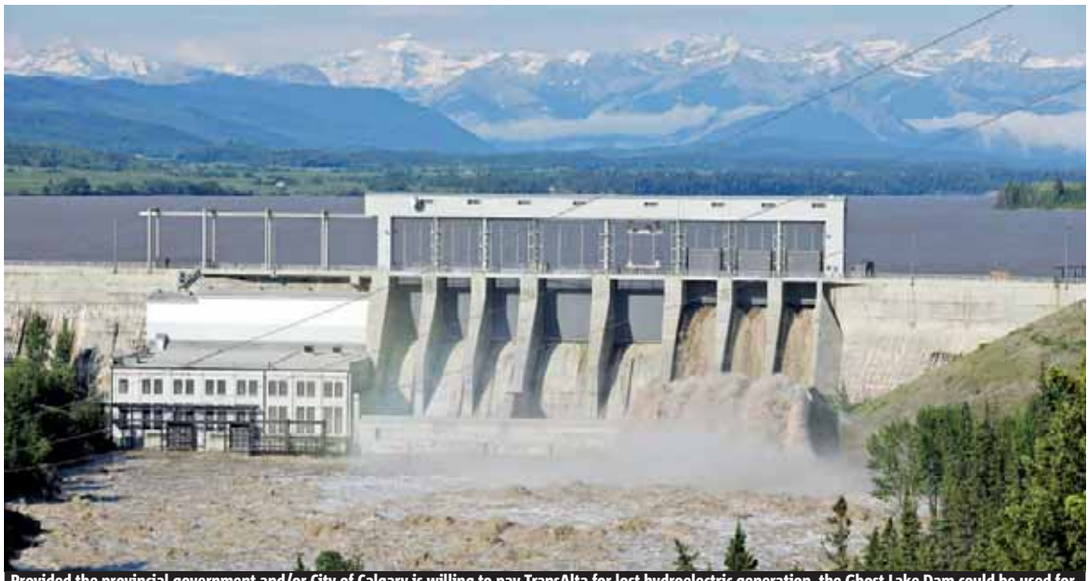
Concerns raised over high water level in Ghost Reservoir

Upstream of Calgary. Province and TransAlta still talking about using dam for flood protection

ROBSON FLETCHER
robson.fletcher@metronews.ca



Provided the provincial government and/or City of Calgary is willing to pay TransAlta for lost hydroelectric generation, the Ghost Lake Dam could be used for flood mitigation, too. The province and the company are in talks but no arrangement has yet been reached. JEFF MCINTOSH/CANADIAN PRESS FILE

Water in the Ghost Lake Reservoir upstream of Calgary is higher than normal for this time of year, something the provincial government says it currently has no control over and the dam's owner says should change in the coming days.

"We're spilling gradually so we get back to the seasonal, normal level," TransAlta spokesperson Stacey Hatcher said Thursday.

Recent rain and snow melt has led to the high levels, Hatcher added, as has a request from the City of Calgary to temporarily slow the release of water while bank repairs are completed along the Bow River downstream.

Alberta Party Leader Greg Clark, however, raised concerns about holding water back at this time of year.

"We're entering flood season, and the Ghost Dam is the last line of defence on the Bow," he said Thursday. "If it's already high and floodwaters come, it really worries me."

The province needs to fast-track negotiations with the power company to repurpose the dam for flood-mitigation purposes, Clark added, especially during the peak risk period of mid-May to mid-July.

"If that means we need to compensate TransAlta, then so be it," he said. "But I can guarantee you that'll be a lot less money than any future flood."

Alberta Environment Minister Robin Campbell wasn't available for an interview Thursday. Jason Penner, a public affairs officer for the department, said the province is still in talks with TransAlta over using its infrastructure for flood mitigation, but there's no deal yet and no time frame for one, either.

The province is not currently directing the company to adjust water levels in the reservoir, Penner added.

The "absolute capacity" of the Ghost Reservoir is about 70 million cubic metres, Hatcher said. By comparison, the Glenmore Reservoir on the Elbow River in Calgary has a capacity of about 17 million cubic metres.

Quoted

"We're now in flood season, and the fact that the province hasn't got an arrangement with TransAlta is totally unacceptable. The province has said they're not going to do any flood mitigation on the Bow River because there are existing dams and they're going to work out a deal with TransAlta. Do it." Alberta Party leader Greg Clark

Flood work. CTF leery of provincial contract with Tervita

The Canadian Taxpayers Federation has taken issue with an apparently untendered contract with a company for flood work done in High River.

High River was devastated by flooding that hit southern Alberta in June 2013. The province immediately contracted Tervita to begin rehabilitation.

According to the contract, which was leaked to the CTF, the province and Tervita Corporation entered a $45-million deal for post-flood work.

The CTF says the contract showed Tervita was paid for what it called "broadly defined flood-related work in High River."

They said no specific jobs were described in the contract but that it had to submit bills to the government, to a maximum agreed amount.

The tax-fighters took issue with the fact some of the vague, "sole-sourced" work was up to six months after the flood.

"Albertans might give the government a pass for sole-sourcing contracts in the emergency period during and immediately after the flood for short-term work, but there is no sound reasoning for handing out a contract without a competition for medium and long-term work," said CTF Alberta director Derek Fildebrandt. METRO

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IT'S TIME TO CONSIDER A PUBLIC GRAFFITI WALL IN CALGARY

Would a public graffiti wall help curb incidences of vandalism on exposed public art like this piece in Kensington?
MIKE MORRISON/FOR METRO

IN DEFENCE OF
Mike Morrison
calgary@metronews.ca

While Calgary's city council is debating the pros and cons of supporting public art projects, on a more localized level, the city's graffiti problem continues to affect some of our best and most innovative artists.

The latest example can be found in Kensington, where a mural by Daniel J. Kirk has twice in recent weeks fallen victim to vandals.

The Community Mural Project was privately commissioned by Truman Development and was completed last year on the side of a building at 1221 B Kensington Rd. N.W.

Earlier this month, a skull was spray-painted on the mural. In an experiment to see if both worlds (artists and vandals) can co-exist, Kirk cleverly incorporated the skull into the project.

But then this week the mural was essentially destroyed when two giant words were painted across half the wall.

I caught up with Kirk as he surveyed the graffiti. "It's going to be adapted now. It's never going to be the same as it was. It's the story of this place. Letting it go is my own personal challenge," he said.

Kirk, who's often hired to paint similar murals around the city, knows that graffiti comes with the territory of painting in the public.

"It's vulnerable to any reaction," he said.

As he's left to wonder why the vandal wouldn't simply choose a blank wall, he admits that this particular act was "surprising."

Was the building vandalized because it was once Druh Farrell's campaign office? Was it another artist making a statement or was it, as I suspect, just a big jerk? No matter. Kirk is more optimistic and would like to keep the dialogue going. He thinks that it might be an opportunity to turn the canvas into Calgary's first public graffiti wall. After all, it's something that already exists in cities like Saskatoon, Chicoutimi, Brandon, Ottawa, Halifax, Summerside and St. John's. The purpose of a public graffiti wall is to give artists or vandals (depending on who you ask) a place to showcase their work without the risk of being arrested or fined. The idea is that they'd then leave other public spaces alone. While it's not a guarantee, it's definitely worth a shot.

If I was a betting man, I could probably win by guessing which councillors would oppose such a project. But it's time that we approach graffiti in an innovative and creative way because, clearly, the risk of a $5,000 fine isn't working. Projects like a public community wall have been finding success around the world, and if it means helping artists like Kirk, who are using their talents to build a better community, then it's a win-win proposition.

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Much more than a freebie

Calgary student a finalist in contest for scholarship

Sun, fun and a scholarship are at stake for a Calgary student looking to win a national contest.

Edrienne Manalastas, a student at Sir Winston Churchill High School, is in the finalists to win the Amazing Travel Scholarship sponsored by the company S-Trip. Manalastas, the only finalist from southern Alberta, said she's vying for the spot because she loves the freedom of travel.

"It makes you realize things about your own self," said Manalastas. "Usually when you travel, you don't know people in that place and that makes you not be confined by societal pressures anymore."

The winner, a Grade 12 student who has to convince a panel of S-Trip employees why he or she thinks travel is a great part of education, gets a $2,500 post-secondary scholarship, an internship and an all-expense-paid trip to the Caribbean.

Edrienne Manalastas METRO

If she wins, Manalastas said she'll jet set with her mom.

"I was thinking of bringing a friend, then I realized how much she sacrificed for me," she said.

The winner will be decided on May 25.

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MLA Thomas Lukaszuk announced at an Edmonton coffee shop Thursday that he would seek the Progressive Conservative leadership. RYAN TUMILTY/METRO

Lukaszuk tosses his hat in for PC leadership

Third horse.
Edmonton MLA joins Jim Prentice and Ric McIver in race for job left by Alison Redford

RYAN TUMILTY
ryan.tumilty@metronews.ca

A third horse has entered the race to lead the Progressive Conservatives: Edmonton MLA Thomas Lukaszuk announced his candidacy Thursday.

Outside a downtown Edmonton coffee shop, Lukaszuk said he would be the "everyman" in the race to reflect what Albertans really want.

"Alberta has been built by ordinary people for many, many years, and the Alberta government needs more of that," he said.

Lukaszuk joins former federal cabinet minister Jim Prentice and former infrastructure minister Ric McIver as the declared candidates in the race.

When Prentice announced his bid Wednesday, he did so with the support of more than 40 MLAs. Lukaszuk said he has no problem starting the race as the underdog.

"It's not the size of the dog in the fight, it's the size of the fight in the dog," he said. "I have a good fight in me."

Immediately before declaring his intentions, Lukaszuk resigned as minister of jobs, skills, training and labour. He said he hopes to focus his campaign on the issues everyday Albertans care about, like daycare, schools and seniors' homes.

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Local startup learned to think internationally

Global appeal.
Golf app growing in popularity in South Africa, Australia and Scandinavia

ROBSON FLETCHER
robson.fletcher@metronews.ca

Over beers one day, Calgary radio show host Roger Kinkade and his buddy Josh Fafard, a software developer, were kicking around business ideas while also talking about ways to improve their golf games.

What they came up with was an app called OffCourse, a product they initially intended for local amateur golfers.

"Our idea was to start in Calgary and then grow out to Canmore, Banff and then Invermere," Kinkade said of the original business plan, which involved programming information about area golf courses into the app, allowing users to track their performances.

"What we realized is, if we're putting in a golf course in Banff, it's really no different than putting in a golf course in Dublin," Kinkade said.

OffCourse now contains information on 20,000 golf courses worldwide, and Fafard said as downloads slowed last winter in Canada, they started picking up in places like South Africa, Australia and the United Kingdom.

In Calgary's growing tech startup field, that local-turned-global experience isn't unique.

"This is fairly commonplace for starting an app," said Andrew Browne of Startup Calgary.

"Often times, you're surprised with who does download it."

Being based in Calgary doesn't mean entrepreneurs need to restrict their products to the relatively small market of Canada, or even North America, Browne added.

"If you start a startup, you should be thinking globally almost immediately," he said.

OffCourse met its relatively modest goal of reaching 1,000 users in its first season of operation last year, Kinkade said.

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Bombings.
Attackers kill 31 in China

Attackers hurled bombs from two SUVs that plowed through shoppers at a busy street market in China's volatile northwestern region of Xinjiang on Thursday, killing 31 people and wounding more than 90.

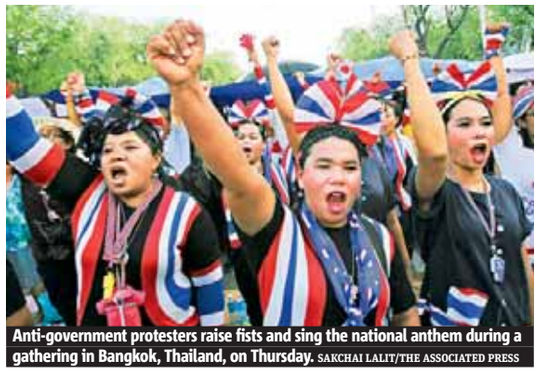
The early morning attack in the city of Urumqi was the bloodiest in a series of violent incidents over recent months that Chinese authorities have blamed on radical separatists from the country's Muslim Uighur minority.

Uighur activists contend that restrictive and discriminatory policies favouring the Chinese migrants are fuelling the bloodshed.

The two vehicles crashed through barriers at 7:50 a.m. and drove right into the crowds while setting off explosives, according to a statement by the Xinjiang regional government. It was unclear how many assailants were in the cars. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Thai government overthrown as military stages bloodless coup

Constitution scrapped.
Nationwide curfew ordered; 18 government officials ordered to report to new governing military commission


Anti-government protesters raise fists and sing the national anthem during a gathering in Bangkok, Thailand, on Thursday. SAKCHAI LALIT/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Thailand's military seized power Thursday in a bloodless coup, dissolving the government, scrapping the constitution and dispersing groups of protesters from both sides of the country's political divide who had gathered in Bangkok and raised fears of a violent showdown.

The powerful army chief, Gen. Prayuth Chan-ocha, announced the military takeover in a statement broadcast on national television. It was followed by additional announcements including a nationwide curfew from 10 p.m. to 5 a.m. and an order for 18 government officials — including the ousted prime minister — to report immediately to the country's new governing military commission.

Soldiers kept a low profile in the centre of the capital. But as the curfew approached, troops diverted traffic at key intersections and used armoured personnel carriers to block some main roads, including the one in front of the U.S. Embassy. Soldiers dispersed most demonstrators from two protest sites where competing groups were camped out — one backing the now-ousted elected government and another that had struggled for seven months to unseat it.

Although the military insisted it wasn't taking sides, its ousting of the government met the key goal of the anti-government protesters. The pro-government "Red Shirt" supporters had earlier said they would not tolerate a coup, but there were no immediate signs of resistance or reports of violence. The military provided hundreds of buses to take the protesters home.

An army spokesman later announced that it had dissolved the caretaker government and cancelled the constitution, but the Senate would remain in place. He said Prayuth would assume the duties of the prime minister until a new one was in place.

The army also ordered the suspension of all television broadcasting and replaced programming with patriotic music to fill air time between announcements.

The coup was the 12th since Thailand's absolute monarchy ended in 1932.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Reaction

Army action denounced by Canada

Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird has condemned the military takeover in Thailand and is urging a rapid return to civilian rule.

"Canada condemns the decision today by the Royal Thai Army to seize control from Thailand's elected government, to suspend the Thai constitution and to restrict civil liberties," he said in a statement.

The Thai ambassador in Ottawa was called in to hear Canada's concerns directly.

Baird says Canada wants action.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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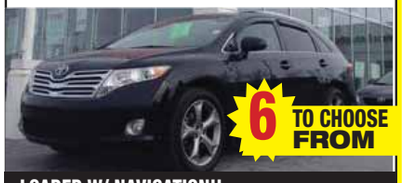

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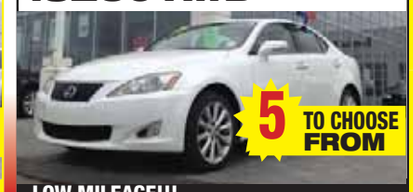

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Canada to support seal hunt despite EU embargo

WTO. Challenging EU ban on seal products proves unsuccessful

Canada lost its bid to overturn Europe's ban on imported seal products Thursday, but seized on World Trade Organization findings that aspects of the embargo breach international obligations.

A WTO appeal decision released in Geneva upheld a previous ruling that the European Union ban is "necessary to protect public morals" regarding animal welfare.

It says the embargo "constitutes a means of arbitrary or unjustifiable discrimination," particularly because of how exemptions for seal products from Inuit or indigenous communities are handled. It also found "considerable ambiguity" in how terms such as "subsistence" are used for Inuit harvests. Canada appealed a November ruling that said while the EU seal ban undermines fair trade, those restrictions can be justified on "public moral concerns" for animal welfare.

At issue was a challenge by Canada and Norway of the 28-member EU's 2010 ban on the import and sale of seal fur, meat and other products.

Terry Audla, president of the Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami representing about 55,000 Canadian Inuit, said his people were never consulted and never agreed with the embargo or its uneven exceptions, adding that Inuit hunters are trying to feed their families and make a living in the modern economy.

"It is morally reprehensible for anyone to impede those goals, which are the basic rights of any citizen of the world," he said.

The federal government said in a statement the decision confirms the ban is "arbitrarily and unjustifiably applied."

Fisheries Minister Gail Shea said that federal officials are still assessing the decision. It's the end of the line for appeals at the WTO, but Shea said Ottawa will continue to support the seal hunt through new product research and other measures. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Seal hunt statistics

Animal welfare groups called the ruling a historic victory.

- The commercial seal hunt off Newfoundland last spring landed about 91,000 harp seals, up from 69,000 the year before, but far short of the federal quota of 400,000.
- About 900,000 seals are hunted globally each year, says the European Commission.

Scan the photo below with your Metro News app to see the video the teens took with polar bear cub Humphrey.

Breaking the rules for little Humphrey

The Toronto Zoo is working with a Greater Toronto Area school to find the appropriate discipline for a couple of teens who hopped a fence at the polar bear maternity exhibit to touch a baby polar bear, named Humphrey, and take selfies with it while on a field trip. Zoo officials are using a video the teens took and posted it online in the investigation. CONTRIBUTED

U of S

Controversial president fired

University of Saskatchewan students who called for the school's president to resign say they're relieved that she has been fired.

Ilene Busch-Vishniac, who sparked controversy with planned budget cuts and the firing of a tenured professor who spoke out about them, was let go. Prof. Robert Buckingham was fired after writing to the government and Opposition about the cuts.

Busch-Vishniac later admitted that the university "made a blunder" in its handling of Buckingham. THE CANADIAN PRESS

B.C.

Orphaned cubs alive thanks to community efforts

Two tiny orphaned bear cubs are alive and in a B.C. rehabilitation centre thanks to the collective efforts of some hikers, dirt bikers, nature photographers and wildlife experts.

The cubs were spotted Sunday on a rural road outside the southeast B.C. community of Cranbrook by local resident Stephanie McGregor, her husband and some of their friends.

McGregor said she is astounded by the effort that went into saving the cubs. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Alberta

Soldier dead after armoured vehicle rollover

The LAV III, which served as an eight-wheeled, armour-plated military workhorse for Canadian soldiers in Afghanistan, faced scrutiny Thursday after a rollover that killed a senior commanding officer in Alberta.

Lt.-Col. Dan Bobbitt, commanding officer of the 2nd Regiment, Royal Canadian Horse Artillery, based at Garrison Petawawa, Ont., died when the armoured vehicle he was riding in rolled. Four other soldiers were also injured in the crash. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Allegations. Anderson's mom 'numb' over sexual abuse claims

Pamela Anderson's mother says she is shocked and devastated by recent allegations her daughter made that she was sexually abused and gang-raped as a child.

Carol Anderson, who revealed her heartbreak to British tabloid newspaper The Daily Mail, said she had no idea of the abuse her daughter allegedly endured while growing up on Vancouver Island.

"I am kind of numb over it all. I sat there with my mouth open when I found out. My husband Barry and I always felt we were there all the time for the kids, so it's just terrible to hear this now," Carol said in the interview.

The actress and animal-rights activist, who was born in Ladysmith, B.C., detailed the alleged sexual abuse during a speech at the launch of her animalrights charity foundation last week in Cannes, France.

"Despite loving parents, I was molested from age six to 10 by my female babysitter," Anderson said. "I went to a friend's boyfriend's house and when she was busy, the boyfriend's older brother decided he would teach me backgammon, which led in to a back massage, which led in to rape. My first heterosexual experience. He was 25 years old, I was 12."

Anderson alleged that her boyfriend in Grade 9 "decided it would be funny to gang-rape me with six of his friends."

Cpl. Darren Lagan told Metro that an investigator with Ladysmith RCMP will be "reaching out" to Anderson.

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4,300-year-old dino found? Creation museum exhibits dinosaur skeleton

A new exhibit of a nine-metre-long fossil skeleton of an Allosaurus, which resembles a Tyrannosaurus rex, is set to open at a Kentucky museum that asserts dinosaurs lived alongside humans a few thousand years ago.

A release from Answers in Genesis, the Christian ministry that owns the Creation Museum, said about 50 per cent of the skeleton's bones were recovered when it was found in Colorado over a decade ago.

Keeping with its Bible-themed approach, the Creation Museum says the dinosaur died in a worldwide flood about 4,300 years ago. Almost all scientists say the last dinosaurs roamed the earth more than 60 million years ago.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

West Virginia

Oops, councilman left off of ballot

With no opposition for his city council seat in a small town on West Virginia's Northern Panhandle, Curtis Mele figured his ticket to a third consecutive term was secure. Instead, a clerical error left his name off the ballot and another councilman was listed as the candidate in his district in Benwood.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Random deliveries

Underwear man delivers bread

Authorities say a man stole a New York City bakery truck and began delivering loaves of bread to random businesses, wearing only his underwear.

Police say David Bastar hopped into Grimaldi's Home of Bread truck on Manhattan's Upper East Side early Monday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Fans cheer on the Bills at Ralph Wilson Stadium in Orchard Park, New York. Some fans have started an online petition to ban Jon Bon Jovi songs because the singer has been linked to a developer interested in purchasing a franchise and moving it to Toronto. TOM SZCZERBOWSKI/GETTY IMAGES

Fans seek ban on Bon Jovi songs

Buffalo Bills. A Bills fan club wants to ban songs from the U.S. rock star as part of an attempt to keep the team in New York

As far as some Buffalo Bills fans are concerned, rock musician Jon Bon Jovi can live on a prayer anywhere but western New York.

A Bills fan club recently founded to keep the NFL team in western New York has started an online petition to ban songs by Bon Jovi.

The New Jersey rocker has been linked to a Toronto-based developer interested in purchasing a franchise and moving it to Canada's largest city.

The founders of 12th Man Thunder are asking Buffalo-area bars to ban Bon Jovi's music from being played by DJs, live bands or juke boxes.

They say so far 28 businesses have established "Bon Jovi Free Zones."

The group says more than 3,500 people have signed its online petition supporting efforts to keep the Bills in western New York.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Syrian troops storm prison, break rebels' year-long siege

Political victory. Success in rebellious north comes with presidential elections two weeks away

Syrian tanks backed by massive air power rolled into the grounds of a sprawling prison in Aleppo on Thursday, breaking a year-long rebel siege and allowing President Bashar Assad's forces to close in on a nearby rebel command centre.

State TV showed troops celebrating inside the prison complex, showcasing a rare government triumph in the mostly rebel-held north less than two weeks before President Bashar Assad's expected re-election.

The Syrian army has made gains around the capital, Damascus, seat of Assad's power, and in the centre of the country. It has now turned its attention to the north and rebel-held parts of the south, where it seeks to advance ahead of the June 3 vote dismissed by Western powers as a sham.

Aleppo, once Syria's prized commercial centre, has been carved into rebel- and government-controlled areas since opposition fighters launched an offensive in mid-2012.

Aleppo Central Prison, which lies on a highway about six kilometres north of the city, has been caught in the middle of the country's civil war, its 4,000 inmates, including women, trapped in a hell of daily battles, fear and disease. The situation inside the facility was at one point so dire that the army was obliged to airdrop food to besieged government troops who were trying to fend off rebels bent on freeing the inmates.

Government forces stormed the prison at dawn Wednesday after rebels fled under aerial bombardment, according to Aleppo-based activists and the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

In this photo released by the Syrian official news agency SANA, Syrian government soldiers stand guard on the roof of Aleppo prison in Aleppo, Syria, Thursday. SANA / THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Syria has friends in high places

Russia's UN ambassador Vitaly Churkin, left, vetoes a Security Council vote to refer the Syrian crisis to the International Criminal Court on Thursday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Russia and China on Thursday vetoed a UN Security Council resolution referring the Syrian crisis to the International Criminal Court for investigation of possible war crimes.

This is the fourth time Russia and China have used their veto power as permanent council members to deflect action against the government of President Bashar Assad. The 13 other council members voted in favour of the resolution.

Russia's UN ambassador Vitaly Churkin walked into the meeting with a smile, telling reporters, "I'm going to be boringly predictable." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Chemical weapons

Ingredient disposal lags

The global chemical-weapons watchdog says the last 100 tons of Syria's declared stockpile of precursors for poison gas and nerve agents have been packed and are ready for transport, but Damascus says it's too risky to move them.

Syria is already well behind schedule in removing its stockpile of some 1,300 metric tons of chemicals that it declared to the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons last year.

All the chemicals were supposed to have been destroyed by the end of June, but that deadline now appears out of reach. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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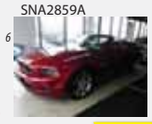
6 
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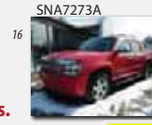
16 
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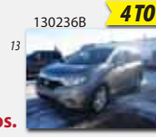
13 
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Nigerian president gives protesters the cold shoulder

'Bring back our girls!'

President sends proxy out to talk to crowd, statement urges them to stop criticizing

Scores of protesters chanting "Bring Back Our Girls" marched Thursday to Nigeria's presidential villa to demand more action to free nearly 300 schoolgirls abducted by Islamic militants, but President Goodluck Jonathan did not meet with them, leaving a proxy to deliver a lecture that further angered the demonstrators.

"Another small window for Jonathan and he refuses to use it!" one protester yelled. "What a stupid move!"

The protesters complained of the insensitivity of Jonathan, who did not even met some of the parents of abducted children, who came to Nigeria's capital specially to see him earlier this month.

Many schools across the country also closed Thursday to protest the abductions, the government's failure to rescue them and the killings of scores of teachers by Islamic extremists in recent years.

In Maiduguri, the northeast city that is the birthplace of Boko Haram, protesting teachers says they "can no longer tolerate government insensitivity to the plight of the girls and the education sector."

In Abuja the marchers sang "All we are saying is bring back our girls," to the tune of John Lennon's iconic "Give Peace a Chance."

They were accompanied by police in riot gear as far as a road leading to the presidential villa, where a fire engine with water cannon was on standby.

Cabinet ministers and aides told the small crowd of about 300 people that Jonathan was not home. A message from the president was read urging Nigerians to unite and stop criticizing the government.

Murmurs of disagreement rose as they were told "The people of Afghanistan do not blame the government, they blame the terrorists."

Civil society groups were counselled to "encourage Nigerians to supply useful information to the security services."

That inflamed the crowd since that is exactly what residents of Chibok did, and if the military had responded to their warnings, the girls might never have been kidnapped.

For years, Jonathan and his military leaders have been saying that victory is at hand against the Islamic uprising, even as the 5-year insurgency has grown ever deadlier. More than 2,000 people have been killed this year, compared to an estimated 3,600 in the four previous years.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

West blamed

Boko Haram — meaning "Western education is forbidden" — blames Western influences for endemic corruption that keeps most Nigerians in poverty despite the country's wealth of oil, minerals, agriculture and thriving movie industry.

People attend a demonstration in Abuja, Nigeria, on Thursday calling on the government to rescue almost 300 schoolgirls kidnapped from a school in the town of Chibok. SUNDAY ALAMBA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

80 personnel

U.S. joins hunt for schoolgirls

Eighty U.S. Air Force personnel have begun their mission in Chad to help locate nearly 300 schoolgirls kidnapped in neighbouring Nigeria, a U.S. military spokesman said Thursday.

The girls were kidnapped on April 15 from a school in the northeast Nigerian town of Chibok by the Islamic extremist group Boko Haram. The group's leader has threatened to sell most of schoolgirls still being held into slavery.

President Barack Obama said the service members will help with intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance aircraft for missions over northern Nigeria and the nearby region.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

130 dead. Search for victims of bombings continues

Family and friends of the wounded and missing continued to search for victims Thursday in the wake of two bomb blasts that rocked a bustling marketplace in the Nigerian city of Jos.

Residents say government action could have helped avert at least one of the two bombings Tuesday.

The death toll has risen to at least 130, making them the deadliest bombings yet committed by Boko Haram extremists.

Market vendors said their suspicions were aroused by a white van that had been parked for hours under a pedestrian bridge, according to Mark Lipdo of the Christian charity Stefanos Foundation.

He said they warned soldiers near a checkpoint, but nothing was done.

Many of the victims may never be identified, Dickson Odeh, a University of Jos student, told The Associated Press after he and other students searched several hospital mortuaries.

They were able to identify seven students, some only from ID papers on mutilated bodies.

"It's horrible," Odeh said. "Many bodies are burned beyond recognition."

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Rebels ambush Ukrainian soldiers from bank truck

Sixteen dead. Eastern insurrection may hamper local voting for presidential election

In the deadliest raid yet on Ukrainian troops, pro-Russia insurgents attacked a military checkpoint Thursday, killing 16 soldiers. The interim prime minister accused Moscow of trying to disrupt the upcoming election for a new president to lead the divided country out of its crisis.

A rebel commander said one of his fighters also died in the raid in eastern Ukraine, which left a gruesome scene of charred military vehicles and scorched bodies near the town of Volnovakha, 30 kilometres south of the city of Donetsk.

The armed uprising and the government's offensive to put it down have cast a shadow over Sunday's election, with Kyiv acknowledging it will be impossible to hold the vote in some areas. In the eastern regions of Donetsk and Luhansk, where separatists have declared independence and pledged to derail the vote, election workers reported threats and interference from gunmen.

In the attack on the checkpoint, residents said the rebels arrived in an armoured bank truck, which the unsuspecting Ukrainian soldiers waved through. The rebels opened fire with automatic weapons and rocket-propelled grenades, acting President Oleksandr Turchynov said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A pro-Russian fighter waits for his comrades as a private house burns after it was set on fire by a mortar shell on the outskirts of the town of Lysychansk, Ukraine, on Thursday. EVGENIY MALOLETKA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tensions

Russia consolidates Ukraine east

Russian President Vladimir Putin's pullout order and his remarks welcoming Ukraine's election reflected an attempt to ease tensions with the West over Ukraine and avoid a new round of U.S. and European Union sanctions. He has ignored the plea of some of the rebels to join Russia.

The U.S. and the EU imposed travel bans and asset freezes on members of Putin's inner circle after Russia annexed Crimea in March.

Russia wants guarantees that Ukraine will not join NATO and has advocated for constitutional reforms that would give broader powers to Ukraine's regions. That would maintain Moscow's clout in Ukraine's industrial heartland.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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This photo released by police shows suspect Isidro Garcia, age 41, who was arrested in Santa Ana, Calif. Garcia allegedly kidnapped a 15-year-old girl in Santa Ana 10 years earlier. SANTA ANA POLICE DEPARTMENT/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Girl's alleged abductor charged

Kidnapping case. Woman, now 25, says mother's former boyfriend raped her, forced her to marry him and eventually bear his child over 10-year period

Prosecutors charged a man Thursday with kidnapping his former girlfriend's 15-year-old daughter a decade ago and repeatedly sexually assaulting her.

Isidro Medrano Garcia faces five felony counts, including rape and kidnapping to commit a sexual offence, the Orange County district attorney's office said. His arraignment was expected later in the day.

The woman, now 25, came forward this week and told police that Garcia had abducted her and then through physical, mental and sexual abuse kept her from reuniting with her family since her 2004 disappearance.

Garcia forced the woman to marry him in 2007 and fathered a daughter with her in 2012, according to investigators with the Santa Ana Police Department.

Police described an ordeal during which the woman — broken through mental, physical and sexual abuse — was moved at least four times and given multiple fake identities to hide her from family and authorities.

The woman, whom police have not identified by name, said she often thought about escaping but did not out of fear, even though in recent years she was not physically held captive.

Police said that she had arrived in the U.S. from Mexico several months before her abduction and didn't speak English at the time.

On Monday she contacted police, who said she did so after reconnecting in recent weeks with her sister on Facebook.

In Bell Gardens — a working-class city near Los Angeles and about 32 kilometres from where she originally vanished — stunned neighbours who knew the suspect as Tomas Medrano found the woman's portrait of him hard to reconcile with the man they knew.

Police said Garcia repeatedly told the victim her family had given up looking for her.

Only recently she contacted her sister on Facebook and they started to communicate, police said. She also learned that her mother had tried to find her, going to media, including a Spanish-language TV station and newspaper in 2004.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quoted

"I was very afraid about everything because I was alone."

The unnamed woman, 25, who claims she was abducted 10 years ago and has endured physical, mental and sexual abuse

Accusations refuted

Lawyer says girl is lying about abuse

The attorney for the man charged with abducting a California teen 10 years ago and forcing her into marriage says her claims of physical and sexual abuse are lies invented because the couple is breaking up.

Attorney Charles Frisco said Thursday outside a brief court hearing that his client, Isidro Medrano Garcia, denies all the allegations, never hit his wife and would never have prevented her from leaving.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Omar Khadr. American soldier, widow file $50M suit based on war crimes

The widow of a U.S. special-forces soldier killed in Afghanistan and an American soldier blinded by a grenade are suing Canada's Omar Khadr for close to $50 million.

In the lawsuit filed Thursday in Utah, Tabitha Speer and Sgt. Layne Morris allege Khadr, then 15, was responsible for the death of Sgt. Christopher Speer and Morris' injuries in July 2002.

The factual basis for the suit, according to their lawyer, is Khadr's guilty plea to five war crimes before a U.S. military commission in Guantanamo Bay in October 2010 that saw him sentenced to a further eight years in prison.

The plea deal included a stipulation of facts in which Khadr, now 27, admitted to murder and attempted murder in violation of the rule of war, plus three other war crimes.

Tabitha Speer and Layne Morris in 2010. COLIN PERKEL/THE CANADIAN PRESS

The Toronto-born Khadr, currently incarcerated in the Bowden Institution in Innisfail, Alta., has since said he only pleaded guilty to get out of Guantanamo Bay and be returned to Canada.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Obesity crisis. Bariatric surgeries balloon by 300%

The number of bariatric surgeries performed on obese Canadians rose by 300 per cent in recent years, a new report suggests.

But even after the 300 per cent increase, the number of these surgeries in 2012-2013 across the entire country was only 6,000, obesity expert Dr. Yoni Freedhoff noted.

With one million Canadians meeting the eligibility criteria for bariatric surgery, the number of surgeries performed is a drop in the bucket. And Freedhoff suggested that bariatric surgeries cannot solve the country's obesity problem.

"We clearly will never have the capacity in Canada to help all of those who would qualify for bariatric surgery with bariatric surgery," said Freedhoff, an assistant professor of family medicine at the University of Ottawa.

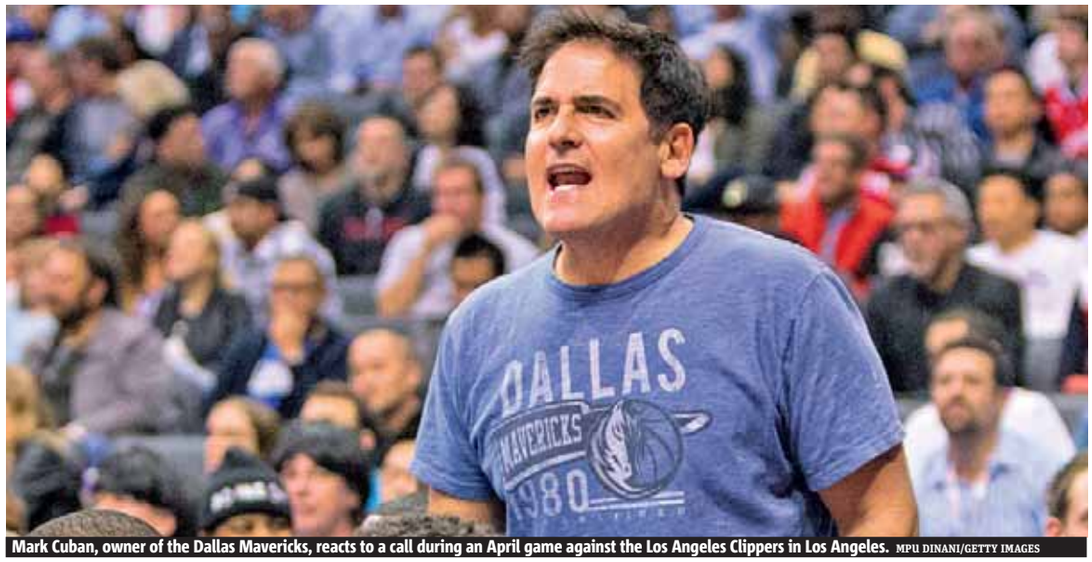
"We are not going to cut this problem away. And if guilt and shame and desire were sufficient to lead people to sustainably lose weight, the world would be thin."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Bigness problem

1M

Number of Canadians who meet the eligibility criteria for bariatric surgery



Mark Cuban, owner of the Dallas Mavericks, reacts to a call during an April game against the Los Angeles Clippers in Los Angeles. MPU DINANI/GETTY IMAGES

Cuban sorry for 'hoodie' remark

NBA loses points again. Dallas Mavericks owner apologizes to Trayvon Martin's family for interview comments

Quoted

"If I see a black kid in a hoodie and it's late at night, I'm walking to the other side of the street.... And the list goes on of stereotypes that we all live up to and are fearful of."

Dallas Mavericks owner Mark Cuban, in an interview

Dallas Mavericks owner Mark Cuban apologized Thursday to Trayvon Martin's family over his choice of words in a videotaped interview in which he addressed bigotry and prejudice.

Cuban even revealed some of his own prejudices in the interview with Inc. magazine and said he believes everyone has "prejudices and bigotries" on some level.

But after his words — which came with the NBA still dealing with the fallout over racist remarks made by now-banned Los Angeles Clippers owner Donald Sterling — created a stir in social media and other circles, Cuban took to Twitter to offer his apology.

"In hindsight I should have used different examples," Cuban wrote. "I didn't consider the Trayvon Martin family, and I apologize to them for that."

Cuban also said he stands by the substance of the interview.

Martin was the black Florida teen who was shot and killed by neighbourhood watch volunteer George Zimmerman in February 2012.

Martin was wearing a hoodie that night, and that particular piece of clothing became a rallying cry for those who demanded justice. Zimmerman was acquitted.

Cuban has not revealed how he will vote on June 3, when NBA owners are scheduled to cast ballots on a motion to oust Sterling and force him to sell the Clippers.

Cuban has called the comments made by Sterling "abhorrent."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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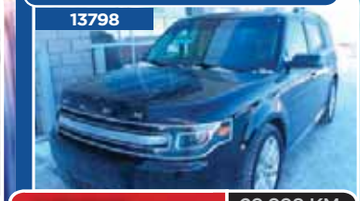

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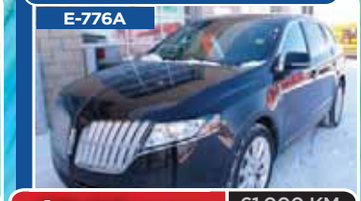

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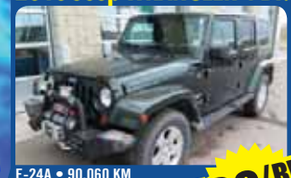

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500 Canadians get set to observe Ukraine election

Ensuring fairness.
Proud to help uphold democracy, Canadians travelling overseas will be keeping their eyes wide open

DYLAN C. ROBERTSON
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Olga Radchenko is heading back to her birth country — but not to visit relatives.

"The current situation has become so incredibly polarized," says the 28-year-old, who moved to Toronto with her Ukrainian family at the age of 10. "I want to play a positive role. I hope this can help resolve the crisis."

Radchenko left on Victoria Day as one of 500 Canadians observing Ukraine's election. For a third time in a decade, a large delegation of Canadians are taking weeks off work to head to Ukraine. They'll be attending campaign rallies, inspecting polling stations and watching ballot counts.

"I feel nothing short of honoured," says Radchenko, echoing two other election observers who spoke to Metro. "I think it's a great role for Canada to play."

Governments who struggle with corruption often invite election observers from other countries to deter voter fraud, bolstering an election's credibility. Ukraine's Sunday election is being monitored by the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), a group supported by 57 governments including Canada, the U.S. and Russia.

Radchenko has a good understanding of her 10-day duty as a short-term observer.

"The general job description is to be an unbiased observer of the electoral process leading up to the election; and the days of the vote counting, to watch carefully and to record what's happening."

The OSCE gives observers intensive training upon arrival in the country of the vote. Observers normally wear a lanyard, which election officers are trained to recognize. Observers are instructed to watch for anything that leads to an unfair vote.

Some examples given by monitoring groups include: making sure ballot boxes are empty before voting starts, verifying poll booths are secure, watching for intimidation, listening for campaigning from election officers, detailing how many ballots were disqualified and why, and making sure ballot boxes aren't whisked away.

Most monitoring groups require observers stay in groups of two. Generally, observers don't speak or ask questions unless they're senior monitors investigating an incident. Observers take meticulous notes — often a detailed form for short-term observers — and report to their team leader, who supervises groups of five to 20 people. The findings are usually tallied in a brief report shortly after the vote and a more detailed one afterward.

Long-term observers like Michael MacKay of Ottawa are in Ukraine for up to 10 weeks. They're monitoring campaigns and media coverage and tracking the electoral commission's logistics down to individual polling stations. Generally, they issue weekly reports and welcome the short-term observers.

"There's an external pressure that was not present last two terms," says MacKay, who also monitored Ukraine's vote in 2010 and 2004, when Canada first sent a large delegation. "The stakes are higher than they've ever been."

Governments who send delegates usually assign independent organizations to recruit and select observers. OSCE guidelines suggest candidates with prior monitoring experience and language skills. Most observers get their foot in the door by applying for a country they've studied or lived in, according to Canada's main civilian-reserve group, Canadem.

Many of the 1,500 Canadians who applied to observe Ukraine's election are among the 1.2 million Canadians with Ukrainian roots. There's also a contingent of academics who observe multiple elections. MacKay worked with people who had served in Kosovo, Sri Lanka and Haiti.

Transportation, insurance, meals and accommodation are covered by the governments — our government estimates the 500-strong delegation will cost $10 million.

But for the observers it's a big time commitment for a vote with no guaranteed outcome, as Metro's Saskatchewan columnist Christina Cherneskey knows well.

"To call the 2012 election democratic is a sham. I left without even knowing who won," Cherneskey recalls.

While voting went smoothly, she had to stay up all night to make sure nobody tampered with the ballot boxes. When someone finally came in the morning, they drove the ballots to the district office, where things seemed chaotic. Inside, it was an "exhausting, intense fiasco" where every scribble and acronym was used as an excuse to toss out votes.

"I left feeling empty," she said.

Past votes

Canada regularly sends handfuls of experienced observers to oversee elections being conducted under difficult circumstances. For example, two long-term observers joined an OSCE-led mission tracking Mongolia's presidential elections last June. Others include:

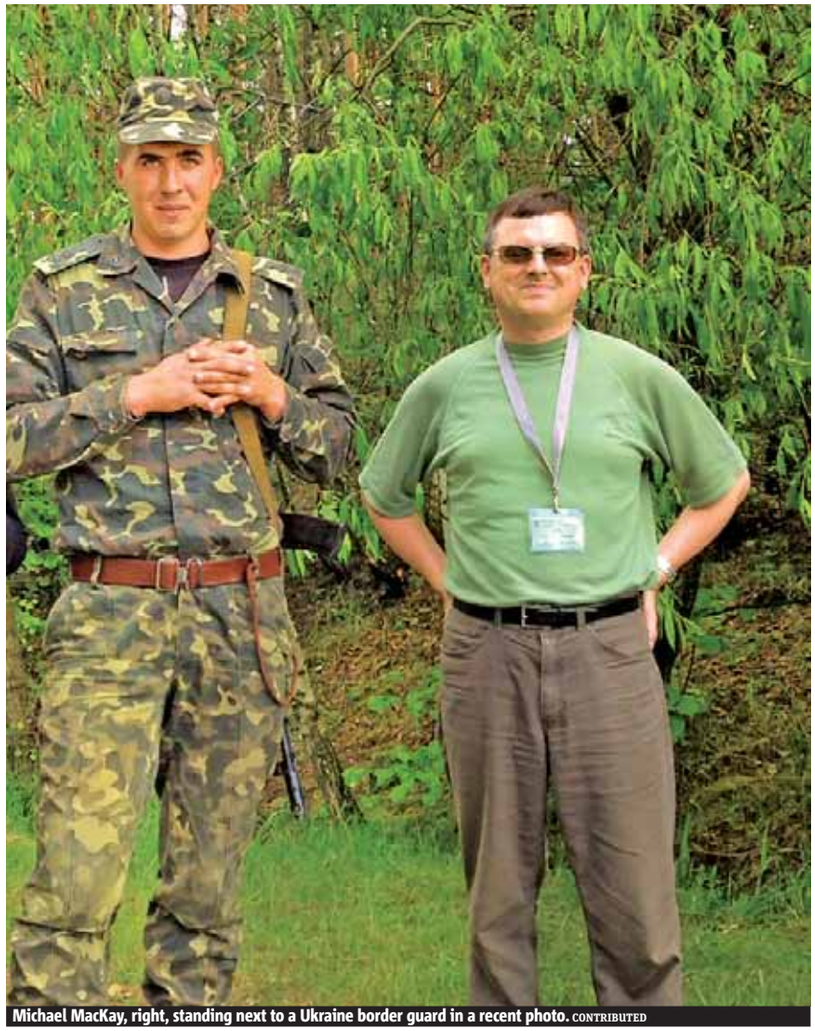
- Ukraine's 2012 parliamentary election — 490 observers
- Haiti's 2011 presidential election — 30 observers
- Palestine's 2006 parliamentary election — 58 observers

SOURCE: CANADEM

History

Modern election monitoring started with an 1857 vote in Romania, but the concept gained popularity after the end of the Cold War, as countries like Ukraine embraced democracy.

- While monitors produce a report, having watchers deters vote rigging.



Michael MacKay, right, standing next to a Ukraine border guard in a recent photo. CONTRIBUTED

Olga Radchenko

"I know that (the OSCE) has done this ... in various countries and in Ukraine specifically, so I'm not concerned."
Communications consultant, Toronto, short-term observer

Michael MacKay

"The mood isn't exhilaration; it's a determination. They're very realistic; they know there could be bad outcomes."
IT consultant and instructor, Ottawa, long-term observer

Christina Cherneskey

"I'd say 95 per cent of people were happy we were there. They would thank us."
Radio producer and Metro columnist, Regina, former long-term observer

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'We are worth more!' Protesters not lovin' the low pay at McDonald's

McDonald's CEO Don Thompson sought to address a growing chorus of critics on issues including worker pay and marketing to children at its annual meeting Thursday.

As hundreds of protesters chanted for higher wages outside, Thompson told the audience in the building that the company has a heritage of providing job opportunities that lead to "real careers."

"We believe we pay fair and competitive wages," Thompson said.

A day earlier, McDonald's closed one of its buildings in Oak Brook, Ill., where protesters had planned to demonstrate over the low wages paid to its workers. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Protesters rally on Wednesday near the McDonald's Corp. headquarters in Oak Brook, Ill., decrying low wages. BEV HORNE/DAILY HERALD/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Facebook

Dino reminds you your mom can see that drunk post

More Facebook users can expect to see a blue cartoon dinosaur popping up in their feeds, reminding them to check their privacy settings.

No stranger to privacy fiascos, Facebook had already made the tool available to users who were posting public updates.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Market Minute

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GOLD $1,295 US (+$6.90)

Natural gas: $4.37 US (-$0.12)
Dow Jones: 16,543.08 (+10.02)

World's largest gold producer hit with suit

Barrick Gold Corp. Class-action lawsuit launched after mine project in South America misses construction deadline

Mining machinery and barrels of chemicals at the facilities of Barrick Gold Corp.'s Pascua-Lama project in northern Chile. JORGE SAENZ/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Several Canadian law firms are pursuing a class-action against Barrick Gold Corp. and some of its current and former senior officers, alleging they misrepresented how much risk the company faced when it undertook construction of the multibillion-dollar Pascua-Lama mine project in South America.

The project involves one of the world's largest deposits of gold, estimated at nearly 18 million ounces, but the company missed its original target of starting production in early 2013 due to opposition from local groups and Chilean authorities.

The suit, filed Wednesday with the Ontario Superior Court of Justice, alleges Barrick described Pascua-Lama as a feasible and highly economic project due to the low cost to construct the mine and to produce gold and silver from it, adding that the company knew or should have known that it would have to overcome significant obstacles. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Norway buys island for the 'common good'

Norway says it will buy a vast tranche of private land on its Arctic island of Svalbard a week after a Chinese property tycoon said he wanted the land to build a resort for wealthy travellers.

Trade Minister Monica Maeland said Thursday the "common good" on the island is best served if the 216 square kilometres were in public hands.

Last week, developer Huang Nubo had talked up the possibility of persuading hardy Chinese and Russian tourists to visit the icy island famous for its snow-covered mountains, fjords and glaciers.

Huang's purchase would have given him a foothold along a potential Arctic shipping route that could cut weeks off the current trade route from the Far East to European and North American markets.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The view from a dogsled going through the mountains overlooking Longyearbyen, Svalbard, in Norway. NICK JESDANUN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

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HASHTAG DICTIONARY SELFIE

THE METRO LIST

Neil Morton
metronews.ca

1 **Happy birthday, Mr. Rubik('s Cube)**: The addictive Candy Crush is all the rage nowadays, but back in the day it was the offline game Rubik's Cube. The Cube turned 40 this week and its birthday trended on Twitter. Google even honoured it with a supercool 3D interactive doodle. I never could solve the darn thing, but man it was a badge of honour to carry it around at school — almost completed.

2 **#Dictionary.** Further proof (like we needed it) that social media is where it's at: among the new words added to Merriam-Webster's 2014 collegiate dictionary are "hashtag," "selfie," "tweep" and "crowdfunding." Yep, it's cool to read the dictionary again, kids. Just make sure to live-tweet it as you study it — and watch your auto-correct.

3 **Corey Hart about to hang up the sunglasses (at night).** The '80s teen icon behind the hit singles Sunglasses at Night and Never Surrender has announced his May 31 concert at the Bell Centre in Montreal will be his last performance. Also, he's releasing a self-published memoir, Corey Hart: Chasing the Sun. Here's hoping it includes a chapter on how we all chased his spiky hair look.

4 **Cine-please, the movies are expensive enough.** The movie chain is doing a pilot program at the Varsity location in Toronto's Manulife Centre where patrons can pay extra to get prime seats in the middle rows of the theatre. This idea will either be a box-office smash or bust. Either way, it better come with extra-comfy chairs and buttered popcorn delivered to my seat.

5 **See Doogie Howser, M.D. in celebrity rehab?** Neil Patrick Harris's website teased out a unique upcoming autobiography that lets you choose the narrative — and the path of his life. Choose the right path on this adventure biography and get a tryout for Doogie Howser, M.D. Choose the wrong one and you could land yourself, er, him on a stint of Celebrity Rehab.

6 **Enduring imagination.** Brayden Denton, a five-year-old from Newton County, Ind., who died of brain cancer earlier this month, was a huge fan of superheroes — his favourite being Spider-Man. So when he passed away, his pallbearers dressed as Spidey, Batman, Superman, Thor, The Hulk and Iron Man. Brayden is in superhero heaven, now. R.I.P., little guy.

7 **May the Force (for Change) be with you.** Donate $10 and you could have the chance to appear in J.J. Abrams' Star Wars: Episode VII sci-fi sequel. This is part of a new charity campaign run by Disney called Star Wars: Force for Change, and the proceeds go to UNICEF's Innovation Labs. Great idea that more movies and TV shows should embrace and offer fans.

8 **Polar bear, Pooh-Bear and the prince.** It didn't have the hoopla of Will and Kate's rock star-esque tour of 2011, but Prince Charles and Camilla's four-day visit to Nova Scotia, P.E.I. and Manitoba did draw buzz in a country that loves its royals. It was capped off in Winnipeg with a bear theme as Charles fed a polar bear at Assiniboine Park Zoo and then they visited the Winnie the Pooh Gallery museum.

ZOOM

This is too close to bear!

German photographer Ingo Arndt got close to this brown bear using a robo-camera vehicle. COURTESY INGO ARNDT

Wildlife photography

Photog uses robo-car to snap bear

Grizzly bears may look cute and cuddly but they can also pull off a wicked death scare. The many personalities of the brown bear (Ursus arctos) have been captured by award-winning wildlife photographer Ingo Arndt, who travelled to the remote Lake Clark National Park in Alaska to document the majestic beast. MWN

Up close and personal

"This female coastal brown bear still had her very woolly winter coat. The weather was just perfect for the photo: warm light on the bear's head, nice clouds and a blue sky. She really looks both fearsome and affectionate."

Ingo Arndt, wildlife photographer based in Langen, Germany

Book cover

Arndt's photos of grizzlies feature in new book "Coastal Bears" (Küstenbären), published by Knesebeck.

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MetroTube

"Meanwhile in ..."

ANDREW FIFIELD
metronews.ca

Look, we get it. The "Meanwhile in Russia" thing is getting old and likely looking forward to retirement in Played Out country.

But sometimes one comes across a video — with zero context, mind you — that appears to be evidence of behaviour that sits so comfortably at the point where bizarre and reckless meet that, well, the only way to introduce it is "Meanwhile in Russia." (VideoCompilationTV/YouTube)

GETTY IMAGES

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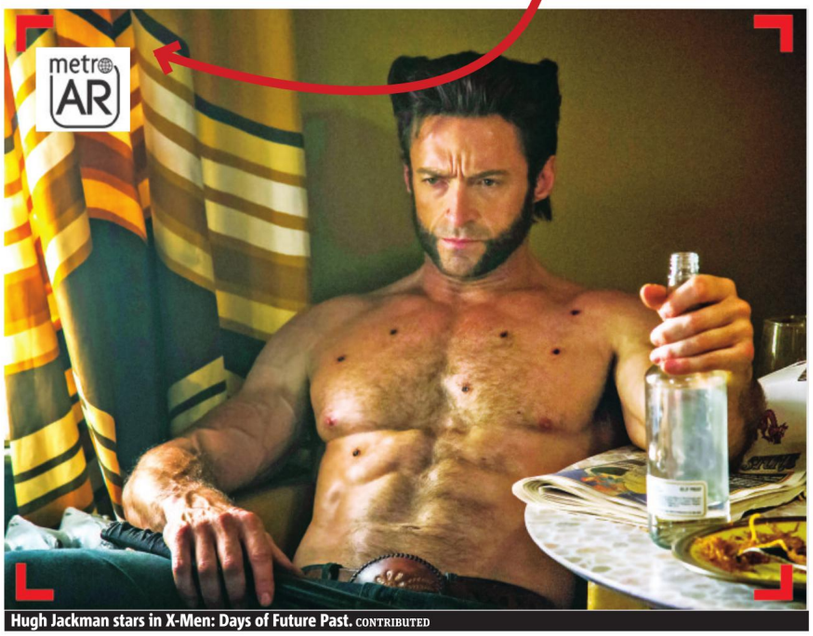
See that symbol? It means you can scan the photo with your Metro News app and watch a clip from X-Men.

Mutant time travel a real trip

Reel Guys

RICHARD CROUSE AND MARK BRESLIN



Hugh Jackman stars in X-Men: Days of Future Past. CONTRIBUTED

Synopsis

Based on a 1981 two-issue special of the X-Men comic series, the new film begins in a post-apocalyptic future. Menacing robot warriors called Sentinels have created chaos for the mutant race, bringing them to the edge of extinction. To combat the threat, long-time enemies Professor X (Patrick Stewart) and Magneto (Ian McKellen) team up with Storm (Halle Berry), Blink (Fan Bingbing), Bishop (Omar Sy) and use Kitty Pryde's (Ellen Page) teleportation ability to send Wolverine (Hugh Jackman) back in time to change history and prevent the creation of the murderous automations.

- **Richard:** ●●●●○
- **Mark:** ●●●●○

X-Men. The latest instalment lives up to the franchise's reputation for smart, fun summer fare

Richard: Mark, Days of Future Past offers up two for the price of one. Merging the young versions of Magneto and Professor X with their older counterparts is a cool idea, and certainly gives the movie a boost in the marquee department, but I felt the old timers were left with their own heightened sense of drama and not much else. It seems a shame to have McKellen and Stewart, the Martin and Lewis of mutants, on screen together and not give them much to do. What did you think?

Mark: This instalment really belongs to McAvoy, Jackman, Jennifer Lawrence and Michael Fassbender. I didn't care for the "future" plot with the fogey mutants, but I thought the movie snapped to attention when it flashed back to 1973. The sense of time and place seemed very authentic; in one scene Lawrence is dressed exactly like Carly Simon on the cover of her third album. I half expected her to launch into a rendition of You're So Vain at Fassbender. There's some interesting historical revisionism revolving around JFK and Nixon that even conspiracy theorists would find preposterous — more X-Files than X-Men — but I appreciated the creative effort.

RC: It's a movie about time travel, mutants and serious actors like Michael Fassbender saying lines like, "We received a message from the future," so, of course, it's a little preposterous, but wrapped up in the time-bending plot are some interesting ideas about racism, tolerance, war and rebellion. Not usually the stuff of summer blockbusters, but the X-Men franchise has always been a bit brainier than most. At times it's a bit too ponderous, but I'll take that over the flash-and-trash of most CGI epics.

MB: Me too. I like the franchise for its superior acting, plotting, and its whiff of Ayn Rand objectivism. But it's got a sense of humour, too, which is rarely found in these epics. There's a fantastic scene in this movie where Evan Peters as the young Quicksilver, who can move faster than human time, rearranges an entire tableau of bad guys so they wind up hurting themselves instead of our heroes. But he does it with such juvenile glee that it captures the joy of being a powerful mutant and an adolescent prankster. And casting height-challenged Peter Dinklage to play a scientist out to destroy the "outsiders" is brilliantly ironic.

RC: The actors are all good, but I would argue that the real stars of the film are the ideas. Magneto, Professor and Wolverine are all complex, cool characters that bring the film's themes to life; all the rest is set dressing, except for the Quicksilver scene you mentioned. That was like The Matrix without Keanu's hangdog expression.

MB: Oh, and just a warning, Richard. When I googled the film there was a link to a movie called XXX Men. Do NOT click on this link!

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Ratings and synopses courtesy of Rotten Tomatoes. For more movie reviews, trailers and news go to RottenTomatoes.com. **Ratings:** *Certified Fresh:* *Fresh:* *Rotten:* *Audience response:* *Audience anticipation for the film:*

Sci-Fi

Under the Skin

Director. Jonathan Glazer

Stars. Scarlett Johansson, Paul Brannigan

Scarlett Johansson plays an alien in human form who is on a journey through Scotland.

Rotten Tomatoes™ score
Critics: 86% **Audience:** 63%

Comedy

Blended

Director. Frank Coraci

Stars. Adam Sandler, Drew Barrymore

After a disastrous blind date, single parents Lauren and Jim agree on only one thing: They never want to see each other again. But when they each sign up separately for a fabulous family vacation with their kids, they are all stuck sharing a suite at a luxurious African safari resort for a week in Blended, the third comedy collaboration between stars Adam Sandler and Drew Barrymore.

Rotten Tomatoes™ score
Critics: 11% **Audience:** 87%

Drama/Comedy

Million Dollar Arm

Director. Craig Gillespie

Stars. Jon Hamm, Suraj Sharma

Million Dollar Arm follows J.B. Bernstein, a once-successful sports agent who now finds himself edged out by bigger, slicker competitors. He and his partner Aash (Aasif Mandvi) will have to close their business if J.B. doesn't come up with something fast. Late one night, while watching cricket being played in India on TV, he comes up with an idea so radical, it just might work. Why not go there and find the next baseball pitching sensation?

Rotten Tomatoes™ score
Critics: 64% **Audience:** 92%

Comedy

Moms' Night Out

Director. Andrew Erwin (II) , Jon Erwin

Stars. Patricia Heaton, Sarah Drew

All Allyson and her friends want is a peaceful, grown-up evening of dinner and conversation — a long-needed moms' night out. But in order to enjoy high heels, adult conversation and food not served in a paper bag, they need their husbands to watch the kids for three hours ...What could go wrong?

Rotten Tomatoes™ score
Critics: 21% **Audience:** 88%

Family

Legends of Oz: Dorothy's Return

Director. Dan St. Pierre , Will Finn

Stars. Lea Michele, Jim Belushi

Legends of Oz: Dorothy's Return is a 3D-animated musical based on the adventure books by Roger Stanton Baum, the great-grandson of L. Frank Baum. A continuation of one of the world's most popular and beloved fairy tales, Legends of Oz finds Dorothy (Lea Michele) waking to post-tornado Kansas, only to be whisked back to Oz to try to save her old friends.

Rotten Tomatoes™ score
Critics: 13% **Audience:** 89%

Drama/Action

The Amazing Spider-Man 2

Director. Marc Webb

Stars. Alex Kurtzman, Roberto Orci

In The Amazing Spider-Man 2, Peter Parker finds that a greater conflict lies ahead. It's great to be Spider-Man (Andrew Garfield). For Peter Parker, there's no feeling quite like embracing being the hero, and spending time with Gwen (Emma Stone). But being Spider-Man comes at a price: only Spider-Man can protect his fellow New Yorkers from the formidable villains.

Rotten Tomatoes™ score
Critics: 53% **Audience:** 72%

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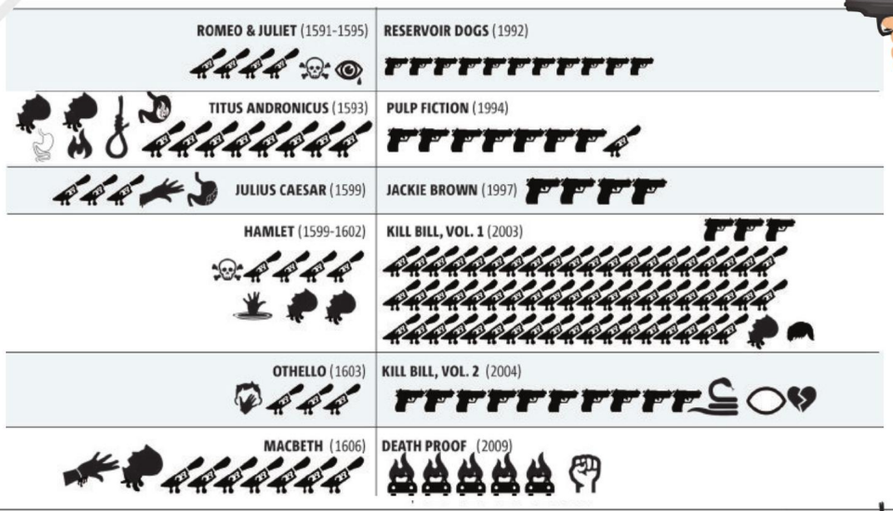
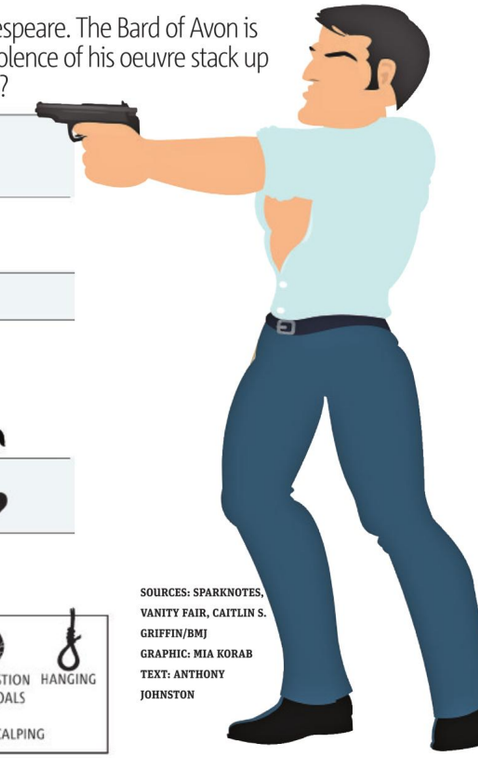
Murder most foul: A Shakey-Quentin smackdown

This year, lovers of literature are celebrating the 450th anniversary of the birth of William Shakespeare. The Bard of Avon is known in part for his dramatic, and at times disturbing, portrayals of death, but how does the violence of his oeuvre stack up against that of the master of big-screen mayhem, Quentin Tarantino?





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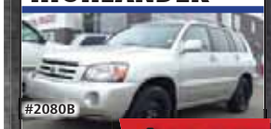
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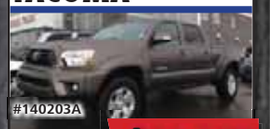
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Filmmaker sheds light on Night Moves

Night Moves stars Dakota Fanning, Jesse Eisenberg and Peter Sarsgaard. CONTRIBUTED

Behind the greens.
Kelly Reichardt peeks into the psyches of environmental terrorists

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News in Hollywood

Filmmaker Kelly Reichardt's Night Moves offers an intimate look into the lives of three radical environmentalists (played by Jesse Eisenberg, Dakota Fanning and Peter Sarsgaard) looking to blow up a hydroelectric dam as a form of protest. And it's quite a detailed look — though she stops short of actually explaining how to build a bomb.

Environmental issues seem to be popping up in films more and more, as the issue is clearly not going away.
But it's been part of the conversation for a really long time. I can't remember when Earth First started, but people have been trying to lay their bodies down in front of bulldozers that are going to knock down trees for quite a while now, you know? But nevertheless, we were just really trying to make something that was today and just create a world, basically.

Where did this idea come from?
I don't know, it's been in the air with us for a while. My producer, Neil Kopp, was born and raised in Oregon, and Neil had grown up with a kid who had done something pretty radical that put him in jail for a while. If you're in the Northwest, it's around you. It's easy to wonder where the waterways came from, it's easy to look at the clear-cuts. People talk about the salmon a lot, so it's all sort of in the air. But then also I had just re-read Crime and Punishment and we were drawn to this type of process film, like Rififi, where you take time out in the middle of a film to really show how something's done. That was really attractive to me, the small steps to get to something as opposed to the big moment at the end of it. Basically how to take this little world that we hadn't seen represented in film so much and put it into the framework of a more traditional genre, and what would that look like?

Kelly Reichardt. GETTY IMAGES

Of course, when you're showing how people construct a bomb, you don't want to be too detailed.
Oh, you can go on the Internet and figure out how to build a bomb really quickly if you want, you know? For better or worse. I don't think ours acts as a real how-to guide in any way.

Right, you aren't naming types of charges or fuses, at least.
No, but you can Google Timothy McVeigh and find out everything you ever wanted to know, sadly, about building a bomb. You might not even want to put that in your article. My father was on the bomb squad for 20 years in Miami when I grew up, and I can remember being a teenager and some of my sister's friends stealing some of my dad's bomb-building books. The information's out there.

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Falling in love with The Rock

The Grand Seduction. Brendan Gleeson and Taylor Kitsch lived the laid- back life while filming movie

RICHARD CROUSE
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA

Brendan Gleeson and Taylor Kitsch soaked up the laid back life while they were filming The Grand Seduction, which opens next Friday. CONTRIBUTED

The Grand Seduction premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival last September, but the movie's star was more concerned about an audience a little east of there.

"I felt they would let us know if they didn't like it," says Brendan Gleeson.

The film is set in a small Newfoundland harbour named Tickle Head where the town fathers have a bid on a petrochemical byproduct repurposing plant that makes ... well, it doesn't matter, as they say in the movie, it makes jobs.

One key element that's missing, however, is a local doctor.

When Paul Lewis (Taylor Kitsch), a city slicker plastic surgeon, lands in the harbour for a month-long residency, the entire place (population: 121) bands together to convince him to stay — by any means necessary.

"I really wanted to be at the premier in St. John's," said Gleeson, who is best known as Alastor 'Mad-Eye' Moody in the Harry Potter series, "because to me, if the movie worked there, I could let it go.

"That's all I cared about, really. It needed to have the imprimatur of the Newfoundlanders on it for me. Their reaction was quiet until they felt the reassurance that it was OK, that they could trust it a little bit more."

The production spent seven weeks shooting on The Rock.

"The land and the sea in Newfoundland has a way of worming itself into your heart where you don't feel quite complete without it," said Gleeson.

Co-star Kitsch concurs. "It's a very simple (way of life)," he says, "and obviously the pace is a lot slower, but once you get into that, you don't want to leave it.

"They are very in the moment when you're talking to them.

"You feel like they are incredibly genuine and grounded and there's no ulterior motive," he said.

"Maybe I'm a bit jaded because of the business, but it is refreshing. It is kind of what it means to be a Canadian."

Kitsch spent his off hours training for Lone Survivor, a Mark Wahlberg war film he shot immediately after wrapping on The Grand Seduction but he took some time to enjoy a great Newfoundland pastime — fishing.

"My best friend is an avid fisherman," he says, "so he'd be figuring out what was going on with the moon and what the best tide is and when we should go and would get genuinely upset if we weren't there at exactly 6:12 a.m. dropping lures into the water."

The Kelowna, B.C.-born Kitsch is an in-demand actor these days and can currently be seen in the HBO movie The Normal Heart, but says he'd love to do more work in Canada.

"I absolutely loved being in Canada," he says, "working on home soil with a bunch of Canadians.

"If the opportunity presents itself and it's right, I'm in."

Quoted

"If the opportunity presents itself and it's right, I'm in."

Taylor Kitsch. Actor
The B.C. born Kitsch on why he jumps at an opportunity to work in Canada when it arises.

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300: Rise of an Empire (18A) Fri-Sat 4:20-10 Sun 4:20
Bad Words (14A) Fri-Sat 9:40
Dallas Buyers Club (18A) Fri-Sat 1:25-7:05-9:45 Sun-Thu 9:45
Draft Day (PG) Fri-Thu 1:10-4-6:55-9:30
Frozen Sing-Along (STC) Fri-Sat 1:30-4:10-7:10 Sun 1:30-4:10
The LEGO Movie (G) Fri-Thu 1:15-3:55-7:10-9:30
The Monuments Men (PG) Fri-Thu 1:05-3:50-6:50-9:55
Mr. Peabody & Sherman (G) Fri-Thu 1:35-4:15-7
Muppets Most Wanted (G) Fri-Thu 1-3:50-7:15
Need for Speed (PG) Fri-Sat 3:55-9:35 Sun 9:35 Mon 3:55 Tue-Thu 3:55-9:35
Noah (PG) Fri-Thu 12:50-3:45-6:45-9:35
Non-Stop (PG) Fri-Thu 1:20-4:05-7:20-9:50
Philomena (PG) Fri-Sat 12:55-7 Sun 7 Mon 12:55 Tue-Thu 12:55-7
The Royal Opera House: Parsifal (STC) Sun 1 Mon 7
The Wolf of Wall Street (18A) Fri-Thu 8:55

Crowfoot Crossing 91 Crowfoot Terrace, 403-547-3316

The Amazing Spider-Man 2 (PG) Fri-Thu 12:25
The Amazing Spider-Man 2 3D (PG) Fri-Thu 3:35-6:45-9:55
Bears (G) Fri 1:05 Sat 11:10-1:05 Sun-Thu 1:05
Blended (PG) No Passes Fri 1:35-4:25-7:15-10:05 No Passes Sat 10:55-1:35-4:25-7:15-10:05 No Passes Sun-Tue 1:35-4:25-7:15-10:05 No Passes Wed 4:25-7:15-10:05 No Passes Thu 1:35-4:25-7:15-10:05 Star & Strollers Screening, No Passes Wed 1:30
Captain America: The Winter Soldier (PG) Fri-Thu 3:15
Captain America: The Winter Soldier 3D (PG) Fri-Wed 7:10-10:15
Godzilla (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 1:20-4:20-7:20-10:20
Godzilla 3D (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:40-3:40-6:40-9:40
The Grand Budapest Hotel (14A) Fri-Thu 9:15
Maleficent 3D (STC) No Passes Thu 7-9:45
March of the Penguins (G) Sat 11
Million Dollar Arm (PG) Fri-Thu 1:10-4:05-7:05-10:25
Neighbors (18A) Fri-Thu 12:35-3-5:30-8-10:30
The Other Woman (14A) Fri 1:25-4:10-7:25-10:10 Sat 11-1:25-4:10-7:25-10:10 Sun-Thu 1:25-4:10-7:25-10:10
Rio 2 (G) Fri 1:15 Sat 10:55-1:15 Sun-Thu 1:15
Rio 2 3D (G) Fri-Thu 3:45-6:35
X-Men: Days of Future Past (STC) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:30-3:30-6:30-9:30
Star & Strollers Screening, No Passes Wed 1:30
X-Men: Days of Future Past 3D (STC) No Passes Fri-Thu 1-4-7-10 No Passes Fri-Tue 1:30-4:30-7:30-10:30 No Passes Wed 4:30-7:30-10:30 No Passes Thu 1:30-4:30-7:30-10:30

Eau Claire Market 200 Barlay Parade, 403-263-3166

Belle (PG) Fri 6:40-9:20 Sat-Sun 1:10-3:40-6:40-9:20 Mon-Thu 5:20-7:50
Fed Up (G) Fri 6:30-9:10 Sat-Sun 12:40-3:20-6:30-9:10 Mon-Thu 5:30-8
Godzilla 3D (PG) No Passes Fri 7:10-10 No Passes Sat-Sun 1-3:50-7:10-10 No Passes Mon-Thu 5:40-8:30
Neighbors (18A) Fri 7:20-9:40 Sat-Sun 12:50-4-7:20-9:40 Mon-Thu 5:50-8:10
Under the Skin (STC) Fri 7-9:30 Sat-Sun 1:20-4:10-7-9:30 Mon-Thu 6:05-8:40
X-Men: Days of Future Past 3D (STC) No Passes Fri 6:50-9:50 No Passes Sat-Sun 12:30-3:30-6:50-9:50 No Passes Mon-Thu 5:20-8:20

Landmark Cinemas 16 Country Hills 388 Country Hills Blvd., 403-686-8491

The Amazing Spider-Man 2 (PG) Fri-Thu 3:40
The Amazing Spider-Man 2 3D (PG) Fri-Sun 12:20-6:50-10:05 Mon-Thu 6:50-10:05
Blended (PG) Fri 1:20-4:40-7:40-10:25 Sat 10:40-1:20-4:40-7:40-10:25 Sun-Mon 10:25 Tue-Wed 4:40-7:40-10:25 Thu 3:45-6:50-9:10 Sun 10:40-1:20-4:40-7:40 Mon 4:40-7:40
Captain America: The Winter Soldier (PG) Thu 10:25
Captain America: The Winter Soldier 3D (PG) Fri-Sun 12:50-4:10-7:20-10:25 Mon-Wed 4:10-7:20-10:25 Thu 4:10
God's Not Dead (PG) Fri-Sun 12:25-3:15-6:10 Mon-Thu 3:15-6:10
Godzilla (PG) Fri-Sun 1:10-4:20-7:35-10:30 Mon-Thu 4:20-7:35-10:30
Godzilla 3D (PG) Fri 12:40-3:50-7:10-10:10 Sat-Sun 9:50-12:40-3:50-7:10-10:10 Mon 3:50-7:10-10:10 Tue 3:50-7:10 Wed 3:50 Thu 3:50-7:10-10:10 Tue 10:10 Wed 7:10-10:10
Godzilla: An IMAX 3D Experience (PG) Fri-Sun 12:10-3:10-6:40-9:50 Mon-Wed 3:10-6:40-9:50 Thu 3:10
Heaven Is for Real (PG) Fri-Sun 1:40-4:50-7:25-9:50 Mon-Thu 4:50-7:25-9:50
Maleficent 3D (STC) Thu 7:30-10
Maleficent: An IMAX 3D Experience (STC) Thu 7-9:30
Million Dollar Arm (PG) Fri 12:55-4:15-7:15-10:10 Sat-Sun 10:20-12:55-4:15-7:15-10:10 Mon-Thu 4:15-7:15-10:10
A Million Ways to Die in the West (14A) Thu 9:45
Neighbors (18A) Fri-Sun 12:15-1:30-3:25-4:30-6:20-7:50-9:15-10:20 Mon-Thu 3:25-4:30-6:20-7:50-9:15-10:20
The Other Woman (14A) Fri-Wed 6:15-9:20 Thu 6:15
Rio 2 (G) Fri 1:10-3:45 Sat-Sun 10:50-1:10-3:45 Mon-Thu 3:45
Rio 2 3D (G) Sat-Sun 10
Romeo Ranjha (PG) Fri-Sun 1-5-9:10 Mon-Thu 5-9:10
X-Men: Days of Future Past (STC) Fri 12-3-6:30-9-9:40 Sat 11-12-3-6:30-9-9:40 Sun 11-12-3 Mon 9:40 Tue-Wed 3-6:30-9-9:40 Thu 3-6:30-9:40 Sun 6:30-9-9:40 Mon 3-6:30-9
X-Men: Days of Future Past 3D (STC) Fri 12:30-1-3:30-4-7-7:30-10-10:30 Sat-Sun 10:10-12:30-1-3:30-4-7-7:30-10-10:30 Mon-Thu 3:30-4-7-7:30-10-10:30

Landmark Cinemas 10 Shawnessy & EXTRA Calgarytudio 100-16061 MacLeod Trail, 403-974-0470

The Amazing Spider-Man 2 (PG) Fri-Thu 3:15
The Amazing Spider-Man 2 3D (PG) Fri-Thu 12-6:30-9:40
Blended (PG) Fri-Thu 1:15-4:20-7:20-10:15
Captain America: The Winter Soldier (PG) Fri-Wed 9:30
Godzilla (PG) Fri 3:45 Sat 10:15-3:45 Sun-Wed 3:45 Thu 3:40
Godzilla 3D (PG) Fri-Wed 12:30-1-4:15-7-7:30-10-10:30 Thu 12:30-1-4:15-7-7:30-10-10:35
Maleficent 3D (STC) Thu 7-9:45
Million Dollar Arm (PG) Fri-Mon 12:20-3:20-6:50-10 Tue 12:20-3:20-6:50 Wed 12:20-3:20-6:50-10 Thu 12:15-3:20-6:50-10 Tue 10
A Million Ways to Die in the West (14A) Thu 10:15
Neighbors (18A) Fri-Wed 1:45-4:45-7:45-10:30 Thu 1:45-4:45-7:45-10
The Other Woman (14A) Fri-Tue 1:30-4:30-7:40-10:25 Wed 1:30-4:30-10:25 Thu 1:30-4:30-7:40
Rio 2 (G) Fri 1:15-3:50-6:20 Sat 10:30-1:15-3:50-6:20 Sun-Wed 1:15-3:50-6:20 Thu 1:15-3:50
X-Men: Days of Future Past (STC) Fri 3:30 Sat 10-3:30 Sun-Thu 3:30
X-Men: Days of Future Past 3D (STC) Fri-Thu 12:15-6:45-9:50 Fri-Thu 12:45-4-7:15-10:20

Globe Cinema 617-8 Avenue, 403-262-3308

Foxfire (STC) Fri-Thu 6:50
Rhymes for Young Ghouls (14A) Fri 7-9 Sat-Sun 1-3-7-9 Mon-Wed 7-9 Thu 9
Tim's Vermeer (PG) Sat 1:10-3:20 Sun 1:10
Tom at the Farm (14A) Fri-Thu 9:30

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The Amazing Spider-Man 2 (PG) Fri-Thu 6:30-9:45
The Amazing Spider-Man 2 3D (PG) Fri-Sun 12:55-4:20-7:45-11 Mon-Thu 11:45-3-6:25-9:45
Bears (G) Fri-Sun 12:30-3 Mon 12:30-2:35 Tue 12:30-2:50 Wed 12:30-2:35 Thu 12:30-2:50
Blended (PG) No Passes Fri-Sat 1:50-4:40-7:30-10:30 No Passes Sun 12:25-4:40-7:30-10:30 No Passes Mon-Wed 1:50-4:40-7:30-10:20 No Passes Thu 4:40-7:30-10:20 Star & Strollers Screening, No Passes Thu 1
Captain America: The Winter Soldier (PG) Fri 12:50 Sun-Thu 12:50
Captain America: The Winter Soldier 3D (PG) Fri-Thu 4:15-7:25-10:35
Divergent (PG) Fri-Sat 12:25-3:50-7:10-10:20 Sun 3:50-7:10-10:20 Mon-Tue 12:25-3:50-7:10-10:20 Wed-Thu 12:25-3:50-10:20
Godzilla (PG) No Passes Fri-Sun 1:10-4:10-7:10-10:10 No Passes Mon-Thu 12-3-6-9
Godzilla 3D (PG) No Passes Fri-Sat 11:30-2:25-5:20-8:15-11:15 No Passes Sun 11:25-2:20-5:15-8:10-11 No Passes Mon-Thu 1:40-4:40-7:40-10:40
Godzilla: An IMAX 3D Experience (PG) No Passes Fri-Sun 10:45-1:40-4:35-7:30-10:25 No Passes Mon-Tue 12:50-3:50-6:50-9:50 No Passes Wed 12:50-3:50-10:15 No Passes Thu 12:50-3:50
Heaven Is for Real (PG) Fri-Thu 12:45-3:15
Legends of Oz: Dorothy's Return (G) Fri-Sun 5:05 Mon 4:40 Tue 5:05 Wed 4:40 Thu 5:05
Maleficent: An IMAX 3D Experience (STC) No Passes Thu 7-10
March of the Penguins (G) Sat 11
The Metropolitan Opera: Werther - Encore (STC) Sat 10:55
Million Dollar Arm (PG) Fri-Thu 1:15-4:15-7:15-10:10
A Million Ways to Die in the West (14A) No Passes Thu 9:30
Neighbors (18A) Fri-Sat 1-3:25-6-7:40-8:30-10:15-11:10 Sun 1-3:25-6-7:40-8:30-10:15-10:55 Mon 11:30-2-5-8-10:15-10:30 Tue 11:30-2-5-7:40-8-10:15-10:30 Wed 11:30-2-5-8-10:15-10:30 Thu 11:30-2-5-7-7:40-10:15
The Other Woman (14A) Fri-Thu 11:50-2:30-5:10-8-10:40
Predator (18A) Sun 12:45 Wed 7:30
Rio 2 (G) Fri-Thu 11:40-2:30
Rio 2 3D (G) Fri-Sun 5:10-7:55-10:35 Mon-Thu 5:05-7:50-10:25
X-Men: Days of Future Past (STC) No Passes Fri-Sun 12-3:25-6:25-9:25 No Passes Mon 12:30-3:30-7-9:50 No Passes Tue 12:30-3:30-6:30-9:30 No Passes Wed 12:30-3:30-7-9:50 No Passes Thu 12:30-3:30-6:30-9:30 Star & Strollers Screening, No Passes Thu 1
X-Men: Days of Future Past 3D (STC) No Passes Fri-Sun 12:55-1:25-3:55-4:25-6:55-7:25-9:55-10:25 No Passes Mon-Wed 12-1-3-4-6-7-9-10 No Passes Thu 12-3-4-6-7-9-10 No Passes Fri-Sun 11-1:55-4:55-7:55-10:55 No Passes Mon-Thu 1:30-4:30-7:30-10:30

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Boy Meets Girl (STC) Wed 9
But I'm a Cheerleader (STC) Sat 9
The Circle (STC) Sun 7
The Grand Budapest Hotel (14A) Tue 7-9
Kidnapped for Christ (STC) Wed 7
No Films Showing Today (STC) Mon
Reaching for the Moon (STC) Fri 7
Sexy Shorts (STC) Sat 7
Sweet Shorts (STC) Thu 9
Test (STC) Fri 9
To Be Takei (STC) Sun 9
Valentine Road (STC) Sat 4
Youth Queer Media Program (STC) Thu 7

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The Amazing Spider-Man 2 (PG) Fri-Thu 12:25
The Amazing Spider-Man 2 3D (PG) Fri-Thu 3:40-6:55-10:15
Blended (PG) No Passes Fri 1:45-4:35-7:45-10:35 No Passes Sat 11:10-1:55-4:40-7:35-10:25 No Passes Sun-Tue 1:45-4:35-7:45-10:35 No Passes Wed 4:35-7:45-10:35 No Passes Thu 1:45-4:35-7:45-10:35 Star & Strollers Screening, No Passes Wed 1:30
Captain America: The Winter Soldier (PG) Fri 3:20-6:40-9:50 Sat 3-6:20-9:30 Sun-Thu 3:20-6:40-9:50
Focus on the Family Presents: Irreplaceable (PG) Wed 7:30
Godzilla (PG) No Passes Fri 12:45-3:45-6:45-9:45 No Passes Sat 12:15-3:15-6:15-9:15 No Passes Sun 12:45-3:45-6:45-9:45 No Passes Mon-Thu 2-5-8:10
Godzilla 3D (PG) No Passes Fri 12:15-3:15-6:15-9:15 No Passes Sat 12:45-3:45-6:45-9:45 No Passes Sun 12:15-3:15-6:15-9:15 No Passes Mon-Wed 12:45-3:45-6:45-9:45 No Passes Thu 12:45-3:40 No Passes Fri 1:35-4:30-7:30-10:30 No Passes Sat 1:30-4:30-7:30-10:30 No Passes Sun-Thu 1:35-4:30-7:30-10:30
Heaven Is for Real (PG) Fri 12:50 Sat 12 Sun-Thu 12:50
Kochadaiiyaan (14A) Fri-Thu 1:15 Fri-Thu 4:20-7:15-10:15
Maleficent 3D (STC) No Passes Thu 7:05-9:40
March of the Penguins (G) Sat 11
Million Dollar Arm (PG) Fri-Thu 12:40-3:35-7:20-10:20
A Million Ways to Die in the West (14A) No Passes Thu 9:30
Neighbors (18A) Fri 1:20-4:50-7:40-10:25 Sat 12:50-3:15-5:40-8:10-10:40 Sun-Thu 1:20-4:50-7:40-10:25
The Other Woman (14A) Fri-Tue 7:10-10 Wed 10:05 Thu 7:10-10
Rio 2 (G) Fri-Thu 1:10-4:10
Romeo Ranjha (PG) Fri 12:55-4:15-7:55 Sat 12:35-3:50-6:50-9:50 Sun-Wed 12:55-4:15-7:55 Thu 12:35-3:30-6:25
X-Men: Days of Future Past (STC) No Passes Fri 1:30-4:40-8 No Passes Sat 12:30-3:30-6:30-9:40 No Passes Sun-Tue 1:30-4:40-8 No Passes Wed 4:40-8 No Passes Thu 1:30-4:40-8 Star & Strollers Screening, No Passes Wed 1
X-Men: Days of Future Past 3D (STC) No Passes Fri 12:30-3:30-6:30-9:35 No Passes Sat 11-2-5-8-11 No Passes Sun-Thu 12:30-3:30-6:30-9:35 No Passes Fri-Tue 1-4-7-10:10 No Passes Thu 10:10

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The Amazing Spider-Man 2 (PG) Fri-Sun 12:30 Mon-Thu 5:25
The Amazing Spider-Man 2 3D (PG) Fri-Sun 3:45-6:55-10:10 Mon-Thu 8:45
Blended (PG) No Passes Fri-Sun 1:15-4:05-7:10-9:55 No Passes Mon-Thu 6:05-8:50
Godzilla (PG) No Passes Fri-Sun 12:50-3:50 No Passes Mon-Wed 5:35 No Passes Thu 5:30-8:40
Godzilla 3D (PG) No Passes Fri-Sat 1:20-4:20-6:50-7:20-9:50-10:20 No Passes Sun 1:20-4:20-6:50-7:20-9:50 No Passes Mon-Wed 6:05-8:40-9:05
The Grand Budapest Hotel (14A) Fri-Sun 9:25 Tue-Wed 8:25
Maleficent 3D (STC) No Passes Thu 7
The Metropolitan Opera: Werther - Encore (STC) Mon 6:30
Million Dollar Arm (PG) Fri-Sun 12:55-4-7-10 Mon-Thu 5:55-8:55
Neighbors (18A) Fri-Sun 1:10-4-7:30-10:05 Mon-Thu 5:40-8:15
The Other Woman (14A) Fri-Sun 12:45-3:55-7:05-10 Mon 8:25 Tue-Wed 5:45-8:35 Thu 8:35
Rio 2 (G) Fri-Sun 12:35-3:30-6:30 Mon-Thu 5:50
X-Men: Days of Future Past (STC) No Passes Fri-Sun 12:30-3:35 No Passes Mon-Thu 5:30
X-Men: Days of Future Past 3D (STC) No Passes Fri-Sat 1:05-4:10-6:40-7:15-9:45-10:20 No Passes Sun 1:05-4:10-6:40-7:15-9:45 No Passes Mon-Thu 6-8:30-9

Godzilla. CONTRIBUTED

Cannes festival goes barking mad for its prestigious canine prize

Give them a round of a-paws. This year's four-legged actors star in everything from a fashion biopic to an apocalyptic thriller

Dogs appear at the 67th Annual Cannes Film Festival. TIM P. WHITBY/GETTY IMAGES

The race from the kennel is tightening for Cannes' top canine prize, the Palm Dog, announced Friday.

Proving that the film industry is truly a dog eat dog world, four-legged performances have stolen the show in a number of pictures screened at the festival. And there's no clear frontrunner.

Commentators had said that until now the most impressive canine scene came from a dog that plays Moujik, the French fashion designer's beloved pet, in Bertrand Bonello's Saint Laurent.

In a realistic performance that had audiences moaning, the French bulldog stumbles clumsily and dies after munching though the myriad pills that have been scattered on the designer's floor as he passes out.

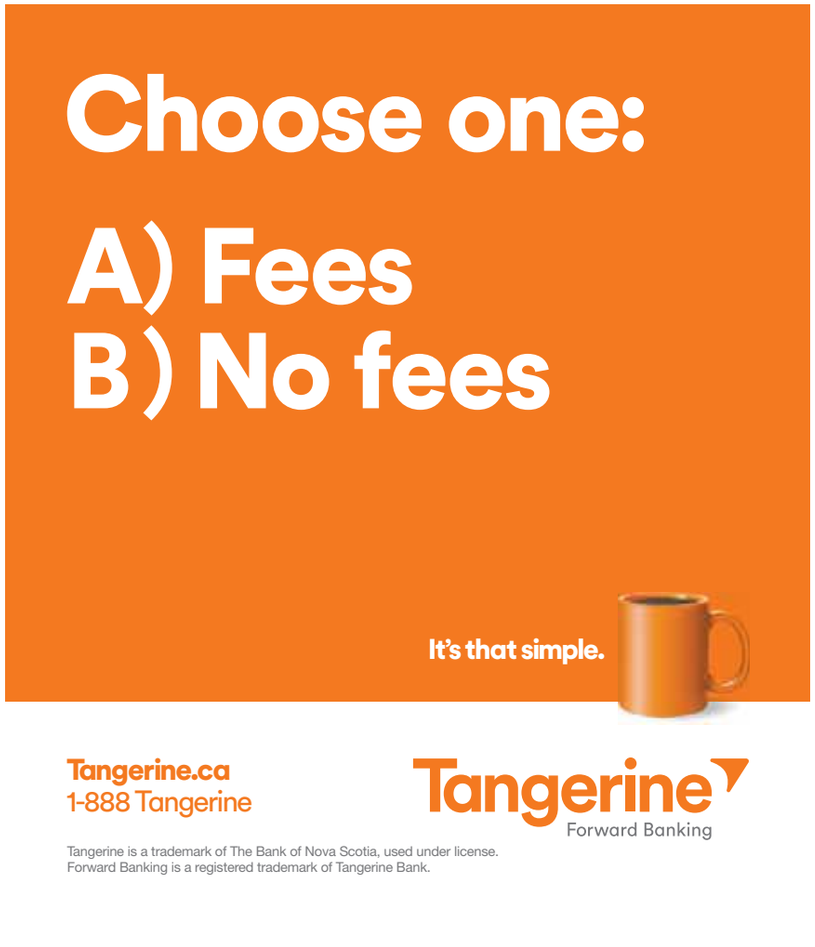
But on Wednesday, following the screening of Jean-Luc Godard's opaque 3D film, Goodbye to Language, social media commentators say there's a new top dog: Mieville, the director's real-life pet. The loveable long-nosed protagonist plays Roxy, who rolls in the snow and wags his tails as a narrator says: "A dog is the only thing on this earth that loves you more than he loves himself."

Dogs also have starring roles in Kornél Mundruczó's movie White God, a strong horror-thriller movie in which Hungary is befallen by a canine apocalypse.

In the more supporting role category, the Argentine film Juaja, directed by Lisandro Alonso, features a faithful dog with a skin disorder who leads Viggo Mortensen back on the right path, in a key point of the film.

And in Maps to the Stars there is also a strong supporting performance by a glossy-haired dog, who rolls over motionless after's he's accidently shot by a 13-year-old movie star.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Call it Mommy mania: Young director shines

Cannes Film Festival. Québécois filmmaker Xavier Dolan, 25, is in the running for the prestigious Palme d'Or with his fourth film at the festival

A 25-year-old Québécois filmmaker is the toast of the Cannes Film Festival.

Xavier Dolan's Mommy, a mother-son French-language drama, premiered Thursday in Cannes. While the writer-director is only 25, Mommy is his fourth film at the festival, though his first in the prestigious competition for the Palme d'Or.

"There might be a proper age to know how to tell stories, but there is no proper age to start telling them," said Dolan. "I'm not thinking of myself as someone young. I feel neither young nor old; I just feel like I'm trying to do the right thing in order to tell a story that haunts me somehow."

Though Dolan has been a fixture at festivals and won admirers for his previous films, his debut on Cannes' main stage had the feel of an international arrival. Appearing Thursday in a trim green blazer, dark-frame glasses and earrings on both ears, Dolan — often labeled a wunderkind or a prodigy — regaled festival-goers with an intelligence and poise beyond his years.

He spoke passionately about, of all things, James Cameron's Titanic and its inspiration to him. He said the 1997 film was the first time it dawned on him that there was "an order to filmmaking."

"It sort of gave me the faith in crazy and ambitious ideas," said Dolan.

Mommy was made in an unusual, Instagram-like 1:1 aspect ratio — a square-sized frame that Dolan said gave viewers nowhere to focus but on his characters. It stars Anne Dorval as Diana "Die" Despres, a theatrical, feisty widow who wrestles with homeschooling her ADHD-afflicted teenage son, Steve (Antoine Olivier Pilon).

Critical reaction to Mommy was mixed, though some predicted it would be in the running for the Palme d'Or. Asked about what such an honour would mean, Dolan said:

"It would just be an extraordinary message to people my age and my generation"

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Canadian filmmaker Xavier Dolan is the toast of Cannes. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Clouds of Sils Maria. Director thrilled to work with 'blossoming' Kristen Stewart

Olivier Assayas says moviegoers will see Kristen Stewart like they've never seen her before in his Cannes entry Clouds of Sils Maria.

"It's really something that you have not seen her in," says Assayas. "She's warm, funny, witty."

The film, which debuts Friday at Cannes, stars Juliette Binoche as a popular actress who's shattered by the competition of a young rival (Chloe Grace Moretz). She and her assistant (played by Stewart) withdraw to Sils Maria, Switzerland.

Stewart was first suggested by Sils Maria producer Charles Gillibert, who produced the Jack Kerouac adaptation On the Road — which brought Stewart to Cannes two years ago. The Twilight star was unavailable, so Assayas and producers then cast Mia Wasikowska. But Wasikowska had to drop out, at which point Stewart's schedule opened up.

"Kristen, whatever image one has of her, ultimately she's just a great actress by any standard," says Assayas. "I was just completely amazed by the range of Kristen. I'm so honoured to be working with her at this moment when she's blossoming."

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Osheaga: Montreal at its most magical

Island time. What started as a smaller festival eight years ago has morphed into one of the must-see music fests in North America

Jack White performs at Osheaga 2012. THE CANADIAN PRESS

In retrospect, it seems like a no-brainer — bring together some of the world's top bands on an island in the middle of summer, to perform across the river from Montreal, with the city's skyline as a backdrop.

But it was only eight years ago that Nick Farkas organized the first Osheaga, a festival that's growing in popularity and has developed a reputation as a premier music destination in North America.

"It wasn't so obvious in the first few years, when it wasn't doing well," Farkas said in an interview.

"Now it looks like a brilliant move."

The festival is held every August in Parc Jean-Drapeau on Ile Sainte-Helene, an island in the St. Lawrence River best known as the site of the La Ronde amusement park and, previously, the Expo 67 world fair. It's a short subway or bike ride from the city centre.

"We wanted to create a microcosm of Montrealness on the island — with good food, art, music," Farkas said.

About 25,000 people attended the inaugural two-day event in 2006.

Now stretched over three days, the festival draws 45,000 each day and has sold out the past two years. It appears poised to do so again this summer.

This year, from Aug. 1-3, the headliners will include Jack White, hip-hop duo Outkast, English rockers Arctic Monkeys, dark and sombre singer-songwriter Nick Cave, and Swedish pop star Lykke Li.

The festival has been likened to a scaled-down version of Coachella, the massive party held annually in the California desert.

"It has the same sort of feeling when you step on the ground," said Christopher Roberts, the director for Toronto's own popular music and arts festival, NXNE, who has attended Osheaga several times.

"It's on a field in a beautiful island in the middle of Montreal, which is just an amazing city."

While NXNE spans two weekends and features hundreds of events at clubs and theatres around the city, Roberts said Osheaga has a more intimate setting.

"Osheaga is a close-dated event that happens in one location, and it has this sort of really magical feel because you're all partaking in this singular event together, which really creates this sense of community."

The word osheaga, the story goes, was used by the first European settlers to describe what would eventually become Montreal. It was originally a Mohawk word to describe the place "where they met the people of the shaking hands."

These days, it's where more than 100 bands are lined up to perform.

Local talent — such as Half-Moon Run, Mac DeMarco, and Le Trouble — will be featured alongside the big international acts.

Sets at Osheaga are short, which makes it easy to discover new bands.

Emerging artists play for 30 minutes, while headliners end each day with sets that stretch more than an hour and a half.

There are six stages this year, up from five in previous years, along with showcases for visual arts.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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A three-day pass for the event starts at $250 and goes up to $950 for those seeking VIP perks. Packages that include travel and accommodation along with tickets start at $424. Visit osheaga.com for more information.

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Dave Foley, left, stars on Spun Out, a Canadian sitcom about a PR firm. BELL MEDIA

Troubled mayor? Sounds familiar...

Wink wink. Creators of Canadian sitcom Spun Out can't a-Ford to tell us the inspiration for a politician character in the season finale

Watch it

Find out about Mayor "Johnson's" troubles on the season finale of Spun Out, airing tonight at 8 p.m. ET on CTV

You'd think plopping a character based on Toronto Mayor Rob Ford into a sitcom would be a no-brainer. The embattled mayor, currently in rehab, has been the subject of late-night barbs for well over a year. He even flew to Los Angeles in March to be a guest of Jimmy Kimmel Live, where the host mocked him for dressing "like a magician." Just a week or so ago, David Letterman ran a "Top 10 reasons Rob Ford is taking a leave of absence." No. 10: "His drinking is beginning to interfere with his crack smoking."

On Friday, a rather tubby, out-of-control mayor seeks help on the season finale of the new Canadian comedy Spun Out. "Troubled Mayor Seeks Image Makeover," reads the headline on the release promoting the episode. The character is described as, "Lewd. Obnoxious. Drunken. The city's most controversial mayor."

Just don't confuse him with anyone who might actually be the current mayor of Toronto, pleads Spun Out co-creator Jeff Biederman.

Spun Out stars Dave Foley as the head of a public relations firm staffed with people "who can spin anybody's problems but their own." Celebrities sometimes come seeking help. An earlier episode featured a bratty pop star who might have reminded some viewers of Justin Bieber.

Biederman and fellow executive producer and showrunner Brent Piaskoski certainly were aware of Rob Ford when the idea of having an out-of-control major seek help from their fictional public relations firm was first kicked around the writers' room.

But the spin they're putting on this Spun Out episode is that any resemblance to T.O.'s troubled top official is purely a coincidence.

"We went with 'mayor' not because of the obvious comparisons to our city's mayor," says Biederman.

"It was mostly because if we go with 'premier' and we do sales internationally, people might not know who that is."

Lawyers generally read scripts to check for potentially litigious issues before an episode goes to camera. The legal team at Spun Out did caution the producers to back off some Ford associations. Suggestions to call the character "Dodge" or other car names were quickly dismissed. (He's called "Johnson" in the episode.)

Biederman says Ford's real-life antics had not hit their "fever pitch" back when the episode was written. Spun Out is shot before a live, studio audience, with this episode going before the cameras way back last summer. Even then, Biederman admits, the crowd in the bleachers could tell where the writers were going with this.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sure...

"It was mostly because if we go with 'premier' and we do sales internationally, people might not know who that is."

Spun Out co-creator Jeff Biederman on why the episode focuses on a mayor

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3 songs for the weekend

A melancholy acoustic folkster, and two tracks all about girls, girls, girls

Sound Check

ALAN CROSS

Sloppy Love/ Nathan K.

A beautifully sad song about a lost love from a self-described anti-freak folkist from Michigan. The video features Nathan lip-syncing the song while trying to hold a sheep. No, I don't know why. From his upcoming album, Methodist Girls, due July 8.

Go to Go/ ADAM

The song by this five-piece all-female EDM group from the Netherlands is fine. But what is really grabbing attention is the video that features all five (fully-clothed) members' attempt to sing the song while a vibrator — unseen — enters the situation. Sort of NSFW, yet not.

Girls/Sizzy Rocket

A brilliant cover of the Beastie Boys classic, re-engineered to be non-sexist and pro-female. Well done.

See that symbol? It means you can scan this image with your Metro News app to listen to Alan's recommended songs this week.

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Video game review

Name. Mario Kart 8

For. Nintendo Wii U

Rated. Everyone

With karts that can stick to the ground, Nintendo is free to take their courses vertical into gravity-defying swells and loops that — thanks to enriched, dazzling graphics — you feel in the pit of your stomach. The core racing remains unchanged, but with a better sense of visual motion. It's the music though, with unfortunate jazz wanderings, that feels one-dimensional. Yes, there are new characters and new boomerang and flower weapons, but it's the online racing and video sharing that add new twists to this family favourite.

KRIS ABEL

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Bry Webb's latest solo album, Free Will, finds the songwriter exploring more mature themes like parenthood and responsibility. CONTRIBUTED

Bry Webb flexes his free will on new album

Older, wiser. On his second solo record, the ex-Constantines frontman turns down the volume, says songs are inspired by his son

When the Constantines elected to end their bar-busting run as one of rock's fiercest live bands, the decision was made in part because gravel-voiced frontman Bry Webb wanted to start a family.

And yet, if Webb's paternal instinct heralded the widely admired Toronto band's hiatus — and he calls himself the "instigator" of the split — it's now his son, Asa, who inspires him to make music at all.

"All the songs I'm writing and releasing are essentially for my son," said the thoughtful Webb recently over coffee at a west Toronto café. "That's how I'm justifying putting things out in the world at this point."

If Webb's solo debut, 2011's Provider, captured him in the throes of new-dad euphoria, the shrewdly observed follow-up Free Will (out this week) finds Webb broadening his view, with some grime on the lens.

It is, in his own words, a less idealistic record, with the singer feeling "upset and guilty" about bringing a new person into a world that feels increasingly to him as if it's in disarray.

It's a topic Webb explores most explicitly on the austere Let's Get Through Today, which he calls an "apology for the world he's inheriting," but the theme is tackled from other angles elsewhere.

The crawling Policy is about the "inaccessibility" of democracy and the tendency for politicians to avoid divisive stances. Morning-dew stunner AM Blues is about the destructive effect distance can have on a personal life.

As on Provider, Webb tends toward uncluttered folk, with whispers of lap and pedal steel guitar imbuing gentle elements of country.

After the pure physicality of the Constantines' serrated rock, Webb admits that playing such quiet tunes onstage required adjustments. He's only recently become comfortable.

"I was always 10 times more nervous playing that kind of (solo) show than playing with the Cons," said Webb, lanky and tall with coarse curls piled atop his head. "There was a real comfort in the volume of that band.

"But it's been a nice transition and a nice balance to that. Towards the end of the Cons ... I didn't have any perspective on loudness. So exploring the other end of the dynamic spectrum is good. It's healthy, I think."

With the recent news of the Constantines' re-formation for a few upcoming shows and the 11th anniversary rerelease of their landmark Shine a Light, Webb will again feel the comfort of a gusty amp at his back.

In the interim, he has Asa when yearning for a racket. Webb says his three-year-old son — "he's a threenager; that's what they call them on the parenting forums," he says with a laugh — has proven adept at slamming on percussion, even if he otherwise doesn't have much patience for his dad's music.

"When I'm playing at home, I don't think he likes it at all," Webb said. "I'll sit and try to learn a song or something and he'll just keep saying, 'Stop.' Because I think in that moment he realizes I'm not paying attention to him.

"He's awesome to play music with, though," he added.

"Drums obviously are the (best) because it's the most instant feedback — instant and biggest feedback. So we have garbage cans and a giant marching band (drum). He loves sitting behind that. We'll just jam." THE CANADIAN PRESS

A quieter sound

"Towards the end of the Cons ... I didn't have any perspective on loudness. So exploring the other end of the dynamic spectrum is good."

Bry Webb
on writing songs as a solo artist

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Last Gang Records defies the odds

Ten-year anniversary. Co-founder talks about the reluctant success of his Toronto indie label

Chris Taylor, a lawyer and founder of Last Gang Records, says he had no idea what he was doing when he started the label. CARLOS OSORIO/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Starting a record label in 2004 was, by Chris Taylor's own admission, "completely ridiculous."

"Everyone was like, 'Why are you starting a record label? Everybody's getting out of the record business. Nobody's getting in the record business,'" chuckles the well-regarded Toronto entertainment lawyer, who nevertheless ignored everyone's good advice and went ahead and started Last Gang Records 10 years ago this month.

Taylor is having the last laugh as Last Gang has quietly sold more than two-million records by the likes of Metric, Death From Above 1979, Crystal Castles, MSTRKRFT and numerous other notable indie names over the past decade.

Taylor originally founded the imprint simply so his pals in Toronto's Metric could finally get a record out.

In his capacity as a lawyer, he'd managed to snag the band four different demo deals with major labels, only to see them rejected. And when Metric finally did sign with Restless Records in 2001, the label shut down before its debut album, Grow Up and Blow Away, could be released, demanding in excess of $100,000 the band didn't have to get it back.

Frustrated, Taylor sheepishly told his wife he was taking $35,000 of his own money to start a label, voyaged to the Pop Montreal festival and asked Donald Tarlton, of Donald K. Donald Events and DKD Records notoriety, for help as a partner.

"I said, 'I'm starting a label, I have no idea what I'm doing,'" he recalls. "We shook hands and said, 'OK, let's go' ... That's how the label started. There was no business plan or design."

Last Gang's first release would be Metric's Old World Underground, Where Are You Now?, a critically hailed sleeper-hit that would eventually go gold in Canada and heralded platinum albums to come in Metric's Live It Out and Fantasies

The label's second gold-album-to-be, Toronto hard-rock duo Death From Above 1979's You're a Woman, I'm a Machine, would follow in late 2004.

Neither band's success story was instant, however, and their ascents came only with a lot of patience, hard work and unwavering faith in the bands' potential to succeed on Last Gang's part.

"It was a trickle and it was a f–ing kick in the nuts every f–ing day, and you can quote me on that. It wasn't fun. It was money, money, money, money and time to get it going. Even Death from Above, it wasn't like: 'Here's Death From Above,' and the whole world freaks out," says Taylor.

Death From Above's abrupt breakup helped usher in the second phase of Last Gang's existence when Taylor signed bassist Jesse Keeler's electronic project MSTRKRFT. The move signalled a prescient turn to dance music and electro-pop — Crystal Castles, Tiga, Chromeo, Boys Noize, Purity Ring et al. — that endures to this day, a moment in time when exactly that kind of music is all the rage. Indeed, Last Gang is currently enjoying "the biggest song we've ever had, bar none" in Chromeo's smash-hit single Jealous (I Ain't With It).

Even Death From Above has a sure-to-be-huge second album on the way in the fall, part of a crowded Last Gang slate that also includes a highly anticipated new record from Vancouver's New Pornographers later this year.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Quiet champions

"We have bands that come in here all the time and they say, 'You put that record out? You did that record?' And it's like, 'Yeah, we didn't write the songs, we didn't invent the bands, but we've done a lot of really cool things.'"

Chris Taylor, co-founder, Last Gang Records

Last Gang's greatest hits

Last Gang Records' five most successful releases to date, as so deemed by label founder Chris Taylor.

- **Metric, Live It Out (2005).** "The album that truly broke the band."
- **Death From Above 1979, You're A Woman, I'm A Machine (2004).** "A genre-bender that was adored by many, from Trent Renzor to Justice."
- **Crystal Castles, Crystal Castles I (2008).** "The world's biggest cult band had to eventually put out a first album."
- **Metric, Old World Underground, Where Are You Now?** (2003) "The album that started it all for the Last Gang nation."
- **Boys Noize, Oi Oi Oi (2007).** "Before the Sahara Tent and before 'EDM' was the fashion."

Actress and singer Lea Michele GETTY IMAGES

Lea Michele dishes on her new book and style must-haves

Brunette Ambition.
Glee star's memoir gives fans a glimpse into her life and style

LAKSHMI GANDHI
Metro in New York City

Actress and singer Lea Michele is now also a published author.

In her new book Brunette Ambition, Michele details her journey from being a child performer on Broadway to becoming the star of the hit TV show Glee. The glossy, photograph-filled book covers everything from navigating life in Hollywood to beauty and style tips.

"I just really wanted to have the opportunity to do something for my fans," Michele tells us. "They are always asking me about health, beauty, fitness. So I wrote this book for them."

The book also pays tribute to Michele's singing idol Barbra Streisand, with each chapter beginning with either a quote from the singer or from one of Streisand's iconic movie roles. "I think she is just amazing," Michele says of her fellow singer and actress. "I remember watching Funny Girl as a little girl and I think that she's an amazing role model. I've been trying to do that for my fans."

While Michele says that deep down she is a jeans-and-T-shirt person at heart, she also writes about her favourite award night looks and her red carpet beauty routine. "I really love my hair and makeup team; they've been with me for a long time," she says. "When we're getting ready for the red carpet, we put on music. It's a lot of fun."

It's been a busy spring so far for Michele. In addition to promoting her new book, she just released the video for her single On My Way from her first solo album Louder. She also voices the character of Dorothy in the animated film Legends of Oz: Dorothy's Return.

"I was so happy that I had the opportunity to play Dorothy. It's such an iconic role," she says, noting that her favourite song in the film is Work With Me.

Michele pauses for a moment when asked to name three items she thinks every woman should have in her closet. "Boyfriend jeans, motorcycle boots and a leather jacket," she replies after consideration.

However, she doesn't miss a beat when asked to pick her favourite recipe in the book. "Definitely I would say the grilled cheese," she replies instantly. "I'd eat it every day if I could."

Lea Michele on her singing idol Barbra Streisand

"I think she is just amazing. I remember watching Funny Girl as a little girl and I think that she's an amazing role model. I've been trying to do that for my fans." Lea Michele

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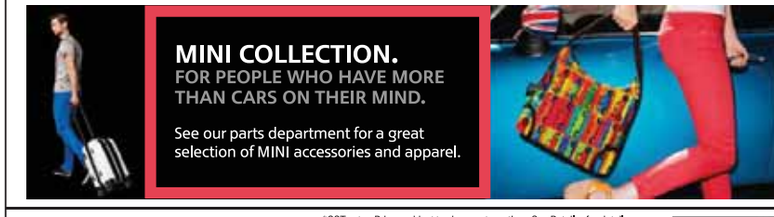

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Author Elise Juska CONTRIBUTED

Blessings in disguise? Novel tackles the complexity of family

Publishing. Author Elise Juska sets out to explore the many ways a big clan deals with a patriarch's death

EMILY LAURENCE
Metro World News in New York City

Big families make for the best stories, don't you think? It's why shows like Parenthood are so successful, and partly why our culture eavesdrops on the Kardashians. Families, with all their complex relationships, forced love and enduring bonds, make for good stories. And Elise Juska's novel The Blessings is exactly that.

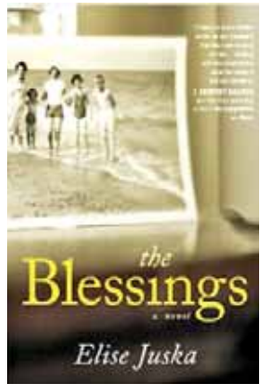
The Blessings revolves around a big Irish-Catholic family living in Northeast Philadelphia. At the centre of this dynamic family is a man named John Blessing, who dies. Everyone in the family — from his wife to his daughter to his parents — deals with his death in different ways, which the book gracefully explores.

The story, while not autobiographical, is close to author Juska's heart.

"I come from a close Irish-Catholic family and we had two uncles who died early in my family," she tells us, calling from her native Philadelphia. "They were the core of my family for so long, so this was not a scenario I was unfamiliar with. It's something I've tried to write about many times. It was my way of telling that story."

Juska says there are certain aspects of the book that were directly inspired by her own family, even if she didn't realize it while she was writing. It comes across in the mannerisms of the grandmother, or a certain family tradition. "The truest part is the reaction to loss and the really long effect of that loss," she says.

The book spans 30 years, so readers get to know each character quite well, and by the end, you feel like an honorary member of the Blessings yourself.

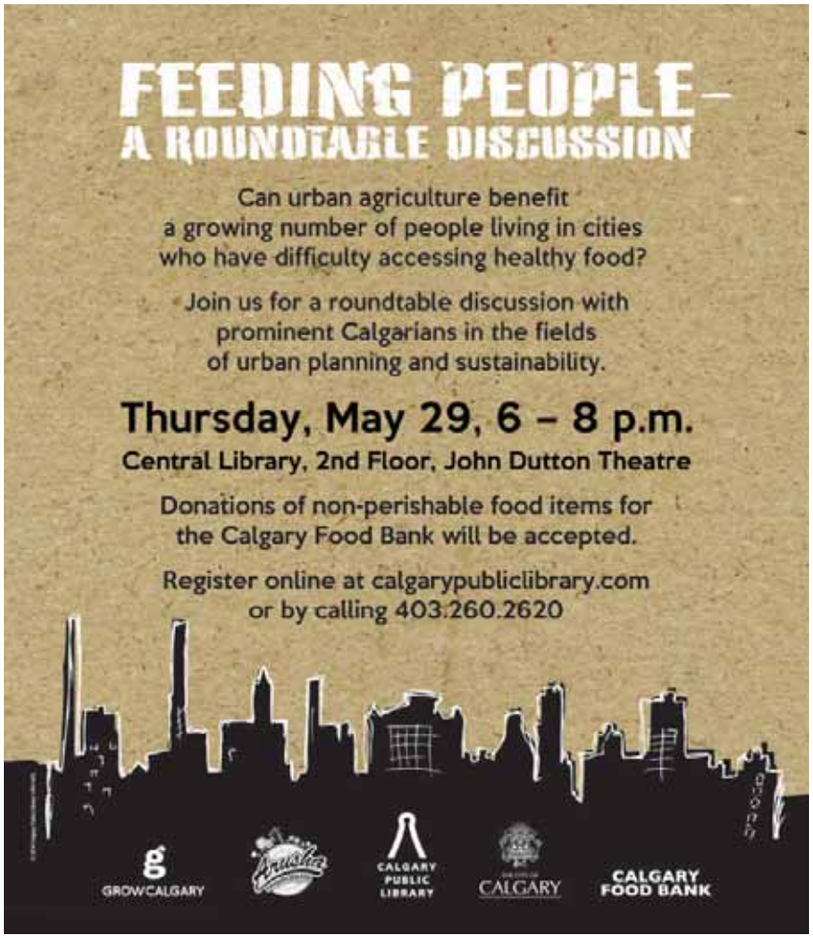


While she was writing the book, her grandmother died, adding another layer of real-life grief on top of the fictional grief Juska was exploring. But despite the heaviness of the topic, Juska loved immersing herself in the Blessings' world, and even though the book is out and the ink has long been dry, she's not quite done with them yet.

"I really love these people. I hadn't truly thought about writing about them again, but there's been a lot of early feedback from readers saying there should be a sequel. That would be a great excuse to go back to them and seeing where they end up. I'm curious about the next generation. It's possible."

Quoted

"I come from a close Irish-Catholic family and we had two uncles who died early ... They were the core of my family for so long, so this was not a scenario I was unfamiliar with." Elise Juska



Now you can get up close and personal with Benedict Cumberbatch ... sort of. The iconic Belstaff overcoat he wears in Sherlock is on display at the Museum of London. ROBERT VIGLASKY/HARTSWOOD FILMS FOR MASTERPIECE

Sherlock goes under the magnifying glass

Museum of London. Exhibit investigates Arthur Conan Doyle's famous sleuth

The Museum of London is turning its magnifying glass on the most famous Londoner who never lived: Sherlock Holmes.

The museum has announced an exhibition devoted to Arthur Conan Doyle's Victorian detective, featuring everything from handwritten manuscripts to the coat worn by Benedict Cumberbatch in the BBC series Sherlock.

It's the first time the museum has built a show around a fictional character. But Holmes is one of those rare creations who has outlived his creator and captured public imagination for more than a century.

"There are people out there who think he's a real person," said Alex Werner, the exhibition's lead curator. "His profile has never been higher."

Werner said with a new generation discovering the character through the BBC's "playful and reverential" adaptation, the timing seemed right.

"This is the moment to say: He is one of London's icons. He helped make London what it is," Werner said.

Werner said the aim was to "peel back the layers" of a character who is simultaneously cerebral sleuth, forensic scientist, drug-taking bohemian and archetypal Englishman.

The show draws liberally from the museum's large collection of Victorian costumes and artifacts, including a 19th-century syringe; Holmes infamously relieved boredom with a seven-per cent solution of cocaine in water.

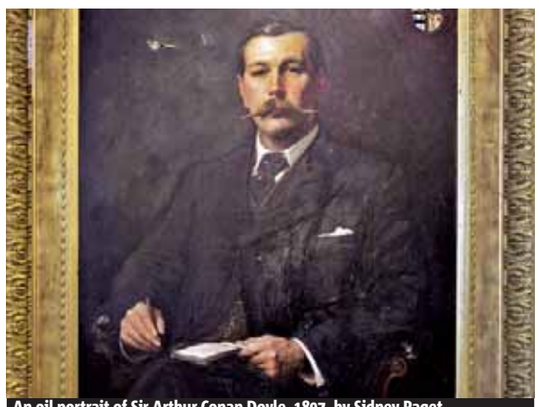
The Free Library of Philadelphia has loaned pages from Edgar Allan Poe's handwritten manuscript for the 1841 story The Murders in the Rue Morgue. It's often considered the first modern detective yarn and was a childhood favourite of Conan Doyle.

There's also an oil portrait of Conan Doyle, painted in 1897 by Sidney Paget, whose illustrations for the original stories in Strand magazine created the lean, hawkish Holmes of popular imagination. Pat Hardy, the museum's curator of paintings, prints and drawings, noted that the solid, moustache-sporting Conan Doyle looks distinctly Dr. Watson-ish.

And no modern Sherlock show would be complete without the flowing Belstaff overcoat worn by Cumberbatch in Sherlock — a garment that's something of a style icon in itself. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Details

The exhibition — which opens Oct. 17 and runs to April 12 — examines the origins of Sherlock Holmes in a series of stories by doctor-turned-writer Conan Doyle, and his evolution through myriad stage and screen adaptations.



An oil portrait of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, 1897, by Sidney Paget. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word

Miley thinks JLaw needs to get it together

CHRISTINA PACIOLLA
Metro World News

Jennifer Lawrence stopped by Late Night with Seth Myers to promote her new film X-Men: Days of Future Past, and told Myers and the audience an embarrassing story. Not our JLaw!

In the past, Lawrence says, she hasn't gone to any awards show after-parties, but this year, she brought her best friend to the Oscars and the duo partied down. In fact, JLaw partied so hard that she threw up all over the front porch at Madonna's "big fancy party" post-Oscars.

"I've never gone out after Golden Globes or Oscars or anything. I'm just so sick of people by that point. I'm like, 'Ugh, God!' But this time I was like, 'I'm going out.' And I puked all over," she reveals. "I was in such bad condition, and I look behind me while I'm puking and Miley Cyrus is there like, 'Get it together.'"

When Miley Cyrus (she of tongue-wagging, molly-bragging, weed-cake-eating fame) looks at you like that, that's when you know you've got a problem.

For Axl Rose, retirement is Paradise City: Guns N' Roses set to split soon

It looks like it's the end of the road for Guns N' Roses, as the rock band is set to split following its current Las Vegas residency so that Axl Rose — the only remaining original member of the band — can retire. "Axl has made enough money and wants to stop touring. He is considering retiring," a source tells Radar Online. "Band members have been told their calendars are free following Vegas. Axl is considering retiring and it's done. Band members and support staff were surprised when told the news and are actively looking for work."

Axl Rose

Mike Myers ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Mike Myers says Kanye 'spoke a truth'

It only took nine years, but Mike Myers is finally chiming in on his infamous befuddlement standing next to Kanye West after the rapper let loose with, "George Bush doesn't care about black people," during a televised Hurricane Katrina relief benefit. "For me it isn't about the look of embarrassment on my face, it is truly about the injustice that was happening in New Orleans," Myers tells GQ magazine. "I'm the guy next to the guy who spoke a truth. I assume that George Bush does care about black people — I mean, I don't know him, I'm going to make that assumption — but I can definitively say that it appeared to me watching television that had that been white people, the government would have been there faster."

Barbra Streisand

Barbra turned off by art book of 'beautiful' gay sex pictures

According to The Normal Heart playwright Larry Kramer, longtime gay icon Barbra Streisand isn't actually so down with the gays. Kramer worked closely with Streisand after she bought the rights to the play, about the early days of the AIDS crisis. "I bought her a book of very beautiful art pictures of two men making love, and she found it very distasteful," Kramer tells the New York Times. Streisand, for her part, insists her reaction to the photos was a "matter of taste, not gender."

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Liquid Assets

Where are you, spring?

LIQUID ASSETS
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I've given up waiting for spring, not to mention summer. I keep looking at the calendar and then out the window, and nothing seems to be jiving.

Though it may be rainy and cold in most parts of our "wonderful" country, I'm determined to embrace reality and sit out on my deck even if it is with an umbrella in hand.

The liquid philosophy that certain wines are tied to a specific season has always rubbed me the wrong way. While a big-boned red may not be the ideal tipple after mowing the lawn in early August; that doesn't mean you couldn't enjoy a glass with a barbecued steak come dinnertime.

Of course, some wineries target the seasons. E & J Gallo's Barefoot Refresh Summer Red ($11.95 - $15.99) has one in its name.

A blend of pinot noir rosé and moscato, it's a glass full of lightly sweet, freshly crushed red berries that go as well with warmer weather as it would with Christmas dinner.

Serving tip: Try over ice. **PRICES REFLECT THE RANGE ACROSS THE COUNTRY. SOME PRODUCTS MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE IN ALL PROVINCES.**

Want a delightful contrast of juicy, crunchy and creamy textures? Annabel Langbein, who brings good food into today's fast-paced world, shows us a salad that meets those expectations from her cookbook, The Free Range Cook.

Pear, Walnut and Haloumi Salad: A plate of contrasts

THE FREE RANGE COOK
Annabel Langbein
gustotv.com

1. Heat 3 tbsp of the neutral oil in a fry pan and fry the walnuts over a medium heat until lightly browned — about 2-3 minutes. Lift out of the oil with a slotted spoon and drain on a paper towel. Reserve the oil to dress the salad. Alternatively, roast them dry on an oven tray at 180 C for 12-15 minutes.

2. Halve and core the pears and slice each half into 6-8 wedges. Place in a mixing bowl and toss gently with the lemon juice.

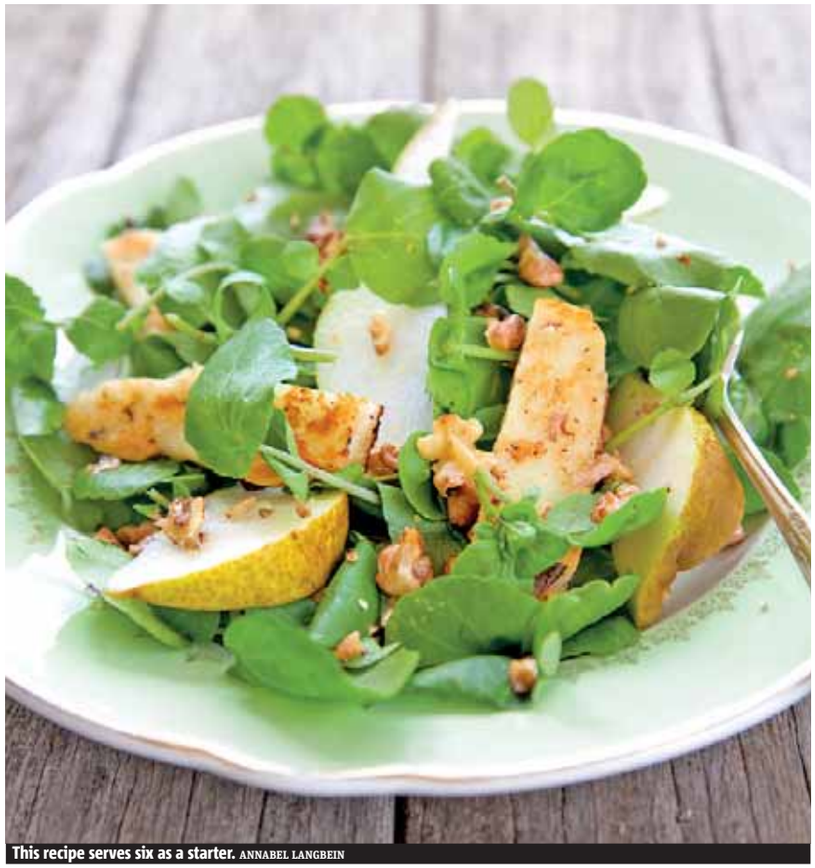
3. Heat the remaining 1 tbsp oil in a fry pan over a high heat. Fry the haloumi slices until they are golden on both sides.

4. Place watercress or spinach in a large mixing bowl. Add the pears and their juices, the walnuts and their oil (if the walnuts have been baked, add 2 tablespoons olive oil), the fried haloumi and the avocado, if using. Season to taste with salt and pepper then toss gently. Transfer to a serving bowl or individual plates to serve.

WATCH ANNABEL LANGBEIN FREE RANGE COOK MONDAY TO THURSDAY AT 5:30 P.M. EST, STARTING APRIL 28 ON GUSTO TV, CANADA'S NEW FOOD & LIFESTYLE CHANNEL. VISIT GUSTOTV.COM FOR FULL PROGRAM LINEUP AND MORE GREAT RECIPE IDEAS.

Ingredients

- 4 tbsp neutral oil (e.g. grapeseed)
- 1 cup fresh walnut pieces
- 2 just ripe pears
- juice of 1/2 lemon
- 250 g haloumi, thinly sliced
- 6 handfuls (150 g) fresh watercress sprigs or baby spinach leaves
- 2 avocados, cut into chunks (optional)
- salt and ground black pepper



This recipe serves six as a starter. ANNABEL LANGBEIN

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Lilac Fest

On Sunday May 25th, 4th Street will be closed to traffic to make way for the annual Lilac Fest. From 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. you can wander the strip to check out crafts, clothing, tasty treats and stages that will have lively musical entertainment. All in all, there will be six stages, 30 performances and over 500 vendors. There will also be lots of patios to hit along the way so plan to meet friends for a nice lunch outdoors once you're done cruising. lilacfestival.net

Foodie Fest In The Mountains

The Banff Rocky Mountain Food and Wine Fest is happening on May 30 and 31. Tickets are flying and Saturday evening is already sold out, but you still have a chance to experience some culinary magic this side of the Rockies on Friday night and Saturday afternoon. Many of Banff's top restaurants will be stationed at the Fairmont Banff Springs and there will also be a large assortment of scotch, spirits, wines and beers to try. Visit the website for ticket prices and other deals: rockymountainwine.com

May Market Collective

The next Market Collective is taking place from May 30 to June 1, so if you have friends coming into town or just want something fun to add to your weekend calendar, read on. This installment will be held at the Chinese Cultural Centre (197 1st Street SW) and admission is only $5. There will be live music all weekend and more art, fashion and crafts than you can shake your crochet needle at. For weekend hours and a full list of artists and booths that will be at the event: marketcollective.ca

Band of Skulls

These English rockers have been a popular fixture on festival circuits and the Pitchfork website for the last few years. Their catchy brand of garage rock has led to several well-received studio albums including Baby Darling Doll Face Honey, Sweet Sour and their latest work, Himalayan. The group comes to Commonwealth on May 31 and tickets are $25. Make sure to note this is an early performance and doors open at 6 p.m. You can listen to their new singles here: bandofskulls.com and to buy tickets: ticketmaster.ca

Tarot Party

The Bass Bus is Calgary's ultimate party transportation and the crew behind the bus is also responsible for bringing YYC several cool events each year. On Saturday, May 31, they are presenting a night of music, art and dance. The Dirty Gramophones will be playing a funky set along with many more musical acts. There will be two stages, a gallery of art to check out and, to keep things esoteric, there will even be an aura reading booth. Tickets can be purchased here: brownpapertickets.com. The Tarot Party is being held at the Royal Canadian Legion #1.

Hidden Gems Film Fest

If international films are your cup of tea then you'll love the Hidden Gems Film Fest from May 22 to May 25 and again on May 29 to June 1. The Stanford Perrot theatre at ACAD will be screening some rare Bollywood features like Anumati (Assent), Tamaash (Puppet) and Goynar Baksho (The Jewelry Box), most of which are about two hours running time. Indian cinema is one of the biggest film industries outside of Hollywood and there are many movies that are worth seeing. Learn more: hiddengemsfilmfestival.com

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Hockey

Ill-timed turnover costs Team Canada

When Team Canada pushed, Pekka Rinne shoved back. The result was Finland moving on and Canada going home.

Rinne made 36 saves as Canada dropped a 3-2 decision Thursday at the world hockey championship in Minsk, Belarus. It was the fifth straight year that Canada has been eliminated in the quarter-finals.

"We had a couple breakdowns," said Canadian captain Kevin Bieksa. "We knew going into this game that the Finns were a team that would sit back and capitalize on our mistakes, and they made us pay tonight."

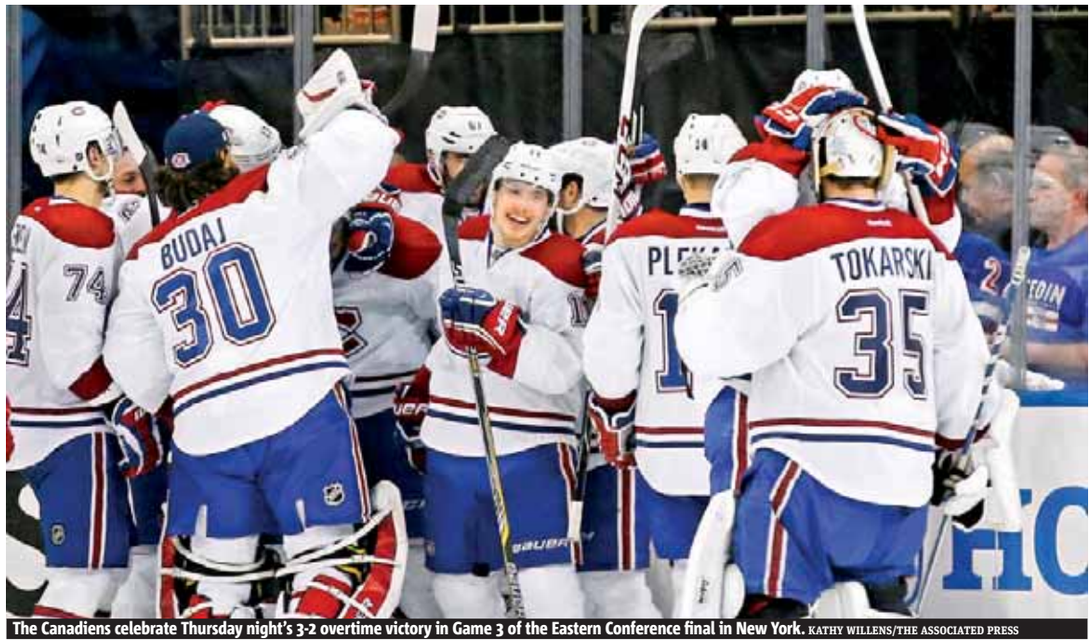
Finland's Iiro Pakarinen scored the game-winner with 3:08 left in regulation after a Team Canada turnover.

"You always want to play better when you lose," Scrivens said. "They got better goaltending than us tonight, and that was the difference."

Kyle Turris and Mark Scheifele scored Canada's goals, with each one coming in the second period. Goaltender Ben Scrivens finished with 23 saves.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada goalie Ben Scrivens reacts after letting in Finland's third goal on Thursday in Minsk, Belarus. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



The Canadiens celebrate Thursday night's 3-2 overtime victory in Game 3 of the Eastern Conference final in New York. KATHY WILLENS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Canadiens bite back in Big Apple

NHL playoffs. With a clutch outing from goalie Tokarski, Habs avoid 3-0 hole in N.Y.C.

Game 3

Canadiens	Rangers
3	2

Alex Galchenyuk scored at 1:12 of overtime to give Montreal a 3-2 win over the New York Rangers on Thursday and help the Canadiens get one foot out of their Eastern Conference final hole.

Montreal trails New York 2-1 with Game 4 set for Sunday.

Henrik Lundqvist made the initial save off Tomas Plekanec but the puck bounced in off an onrushing Galchenyuk.

Daniel Briere's goal with 3:02 remaining looked to be the Montreal winner. But with the goalie out, Chris Kreider tipped in a Dan Girardi shot from an extremely tight angle with 29 seconds left to force overtime. The puck hit the skate of Canadiens defenceman Alexei Emelin on the way in.

The late Montreal goal came after Lundqvist made a fine stop on a Thomas Vanek shot from in-close. But the puck went to Briere who tucked it back in, around the post and off Ryan McDonagh.

Young goalie Dustin Tokarski came up big for the Canadiens, keeping the visitors in a game where New York held the upper hand for long periods. Given the ramifications of a third straight loss, it was a tremendously timely performance.

With less than a minute left, he came to the rescue when he got a piece of a Martin St. Louis shot.

Andrei Markov also scored for Montreal, which was outshot 36-33 during regulation time. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Oklahoma City's Caron Butler, from left, Kevin Durant and Reggie Jackson walk onto the court following a timeout during Game 2. OKC will need a significant turnaround on both ends to get back into the West finals. ERIC GAY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Thunder's Durant on 2-0 hole: 'We've been there before'

NBA playoffs. OKC hoping for repeat of 2013, but Spurs poised to grow 52-point deficit

All the Oklahoma City Thunder can do now is cling to history.

Two more victories by the dominant San Antonio Spurs in the Western Conference finals, and Kevin Durant and the Thunder will be just that.

The Thunder stagger home down 0-2 in the series, smarting from a 35-point beatdown in San Antonio in Game 2 on Wednesday night. It's the same deficit the Thunder faced against the Spurs in the 2012 Western Conference finals before they won four straight and advanced to the NBA Finals.

"We've been there before," Durant said after managing just 15 points in the 112-77 defeat. "You know, we try not to just say since we were down 0-2 two years ago and we end up winning, we'll do the same thing. We've really got to figure it out on how we need to get better, and we've always done that. We've got to just stick together and believe in each other that we can come out and try to get Game 3 on Sunday."

The situations are similar only at first glance. Sure, the two-game deficit is the same, but the hole seems so much bigger.

Back in 2012, the Thunder dropped the first two games in San Antonio by a total of 12 points.

This time around, the Thunder have lost the first two games by 52 combined points.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Heat vs. Pacers

LeBron James has perhaps a surprising take on the Miami Heat: to him, they're not the most talented bunch.

- In James' eyes, much of Miami's success hasn't been just about talent but more about execution and know-how — especially in the closing moments of games, the stretch that the Heat have long called "winning time."
- Fourth quarters have been a strength lately for the Heat, something they hope is the case again on Saturday when their series against the Indiana Pacers resumes in Miami.

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Mark Buehrle pitches to the Red Sox during the first inning at Fenway Park, Thursday. CHARLES KRUPA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Buehrle tops league, Jays sweep Sox

MLB. Pitcher maintains hot streak as Toronto sluggers hit 67-homer mark versus Boston

Mark Buehrle got his major league-leading eighth win with a big boost from Toronto's powerful lineup.

Neither was surprising.

"Look what he's done all year," Blue Jays manager John Gibbons said after a 7-2 win over the Boston Red Sox on Thursday. "Who's pitched better in baseball?"

Buehrle (8-1) has eight wins through May for the first time since 2002 and an ERA of 2.16. He gave up two runs in the first two innings, but by then Toronto had seven, starting with homers on consecutive pitches by Melky Cabrera and Jose Bautista in the first inning.

That gave the Blue Jays a major league-high 67 homers and gave Buehrle a big cushion.

The 15-year veteran lefty blanked the Red Sox for his final five innings and allowed seven hits and no walks while striking out five in seven innings.

Dustin McGowan pitched two shutout innings as the Blue Jays took a half-game lead over the New York Yankees in the AL East.

"It's nice, obviously" to lead the majors in wins, "but I've always said you can go out your next eight starts and (stink) and be under .500," Buehrle said. "I try to throw it out the window and get ready for my next start."

Toronto improved to 8-2 in its past 10 games, while Boston lost its seventh straight.

"We're in a stretch of games here where we're giving up too many runs early and we're scuffling to score runs," Boston manager John Farrell said. "That's a dangerous combination."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Memorial Cup. A battle of eights in the cards for Val-d'Or versus Edmonton

Among the subplots of the Memorial Cup semifinal between Val-d'Or and Edmonton is No. 8 versus No. 8.

The Edmonton Oil Kings want defenceman Griffin Reinhart on the ice when Anthony Mantha is Friday.

With last line change as the home team, the Val-d'Or Foreurs will attempt to spring their 82-goal man for a shift or two without the mammoth shadow of Reinhart.

"It's Crazy Eights, right?" Oil Kings head coach Derek Laxdal said. "It's going to be a challenge for Griff and it's going to be a challenge for Mantha."

Insanity

"It's Crazy Eights, right?"

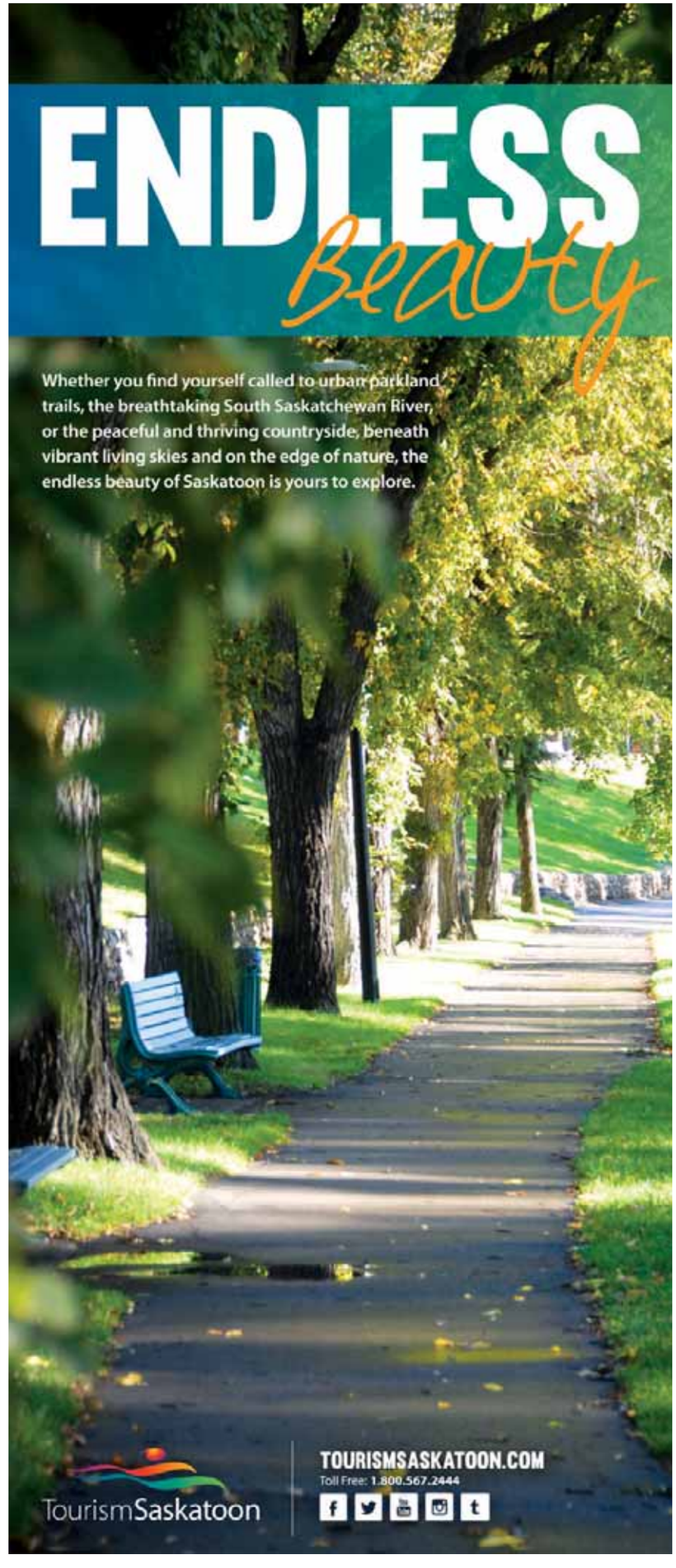
Oil Kings head coach Derek Laxdal, talking about the expected face-off between Griffin Reinhart and Anthony Mantha

The MasterCard Memorial Cup semifinal is a rematch between the Quebec and Western league champions who went to double overtime Tuesday.

After 81 minutes and 15 seconds — the sixth-longest-game game in tournament history — it ended 4-3 for Val-d'Or on Anthony Richard's breakaway goal.

The semifinal victor faces the unbeaten Guelph Storm in Sunday's final. The Ontario Hockey League champions did the Oil Kings a favour, but not the host committee, by eliminating the London Knights and preventing a tiebreaker game.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Horoscopes

Aries
March 21 - April 20
Money issues have taken centre stage for some time but now the Sun has changed signs you should be a bit more relaxed about what you own and what you earn. If your social life has suffered make up for it today.

Taurus
April 21 - May 21
You need to come down to earth and deal with matters of a practical nature. Above all, you must be sensible with money, especially if you are the kind of Taurus who takes an "easy come, easy go" attitude to cash.

Gemini
May 22 - June 21
Your head and heart are working in harmony now, so anything you begin over the next few days will be successful. Don't let the doubters talk you into changing your plans.

Cancer
June 22 - July 23
To make sense of what occurred in recent weeks you need to stand back and see life from a wider perspective. What is it all for? Where is it all taking you? These are the sort of questions you need to ask.

Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
It may seem as if you have reached your limits. There are people who will happily help you out but what you need to realize is they can't read your mind. If you need help — ask!

Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Over the next few days you will get the chance to put some of your big ideas to the test. One of those ideas could turn your life around and send you off in a direction you never imagined.

Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
One of the best times of the year for you is now under way, so get rid of any negative attitudes and start looking forward to all the good things that will be coming your way.

Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
The more you try to give up things you know aren't good for you, the more you end up indulging. Maybe you need to wallow in what you desire until you desire it no more.

Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Now that the Sun has moved into the partnership area of your chart, you will have to take what others think and see and need into account more than you usually do.

Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Over the next few days you will have to decide what is worth carrying on with and what needs to be junked. Don't let sentiment play a part in your decision: put your needs first.

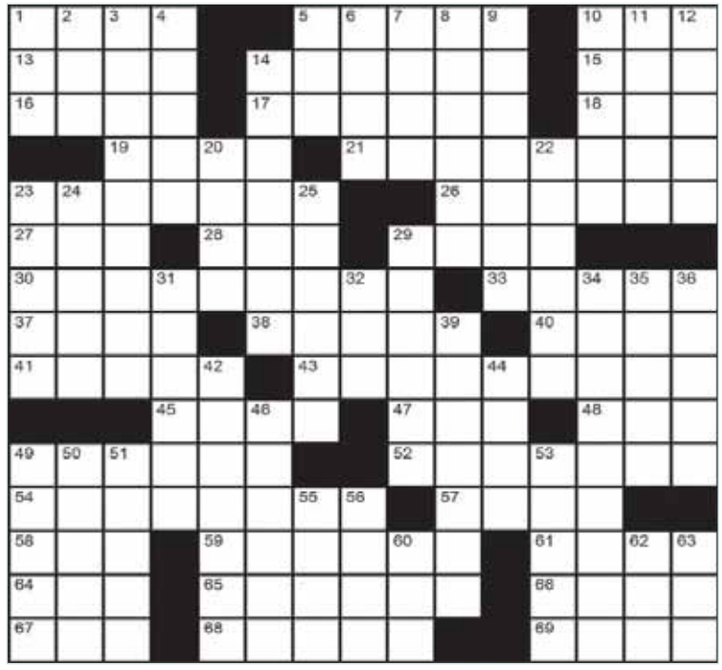
Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Dark days are behind you and everything light. Well, maybe it's not that good — yet. But it's now within your power to change your life in major ways. Forget about yesterday, today is the only day that matters.

Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Social activities are important, of course, but your home life is what you should be focusing on now. If there are problems in the domestic sphere it's unlikely you will be happy in other areas, so look for solutions – you'll find them. **SALLY BROMPTON**

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



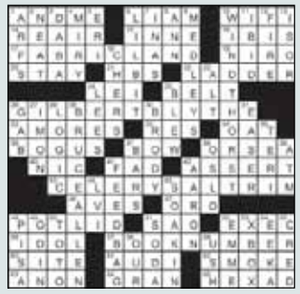
Across

1. Mag. readership
5. Plank
10. Alsatian artist Jean
13. Crosswords creature
14. Follow
15. Chemin de __ ('Railroad' in French)
16. Agyness __ (English model)
17. Canadian channel, Travel + __
18. "Eww! Don't tell me!"
19. Sunup
21. Stir-fry veggies: 2 wds.
23. City Opera Vancouver's new show making its world premiere tonight (See #54-Across for more!)
26. Seizes control
27. Handheld add-on
28. __-pack (Sit-up doer's goal)
29. Non-nobleman
30. "Don't Walk Past": New Wave hit for what Canadian band?: 2 wds.
33. __ male
37. Honolulu gifts
38. TV show: French
40. Persian Gulf land
41. Kiln kinds
43. Southwestern Ontario: Lake Erie community with an Imperial Oil refinery
45. Tilled
47. Active ingred. in marijuana
48. "Alice" boss
49. Literary introductions
52. __ Cat
54. For the opera about the Mohawk/Quaker poet and performer at #23-Across... Music: Tobin Stokes - __: Margaret Atwood
57. Tartan-wearing bunch
58. Noun's li'l modifier
59. Beauty treatments site: 2 wds.
61. Palomino's pace
64. Bee's follower
65. On _ __ basis
66. Stagnate
67. Ouest's opposite
68. Brewer's __
69. Convict's unit

Down

1. Scoundrel
2. Dvorak's "Symphony No. 9 __ _ Minor"
3. Canadian actor whose roles include Michael on "La Femme Nikita" and Maurice Richard in "The Rocket" (2005): 2 wds.
4. Ship's 'locked' route
5. Greyhound vehicle
6. Hostile-to-Hobbits humanoids
7. "__ __ example..."
8. "Supermodel (You Better Work)" singer
9. __-__ diving
10. Blue Rodeo's "__ the Rain"
11. Update a route
12. Fuddy-duddy
14. Phased-out Canadian coins
20. Will-o'-the-__
22. __ Works and Government Services Canada
23. Mr. Picasso
24. Cop _ __ (Bargain in court)
25. Stretch
29. Some fabrics
31. Biblical heroine
32. Canadian rapper, JD __
34. k.d. lang's "Friday Dance __"
35. Cod-like fishies
36. Anoint, archaically
39. 'E' in PETA
42. Glass Tiger hit
44. 'Alphabet' suffix
46. Mansion's setting
49. Canada __ (Pink-hued government building in Edmonton)
50. Fairground features
51. __ d'art
53. Coldplay's recent song
55. Ms. Banks
56. 'Psych' suffix
60. Toronto-born actor Mr. Mastroianni
62. Chicago's state [abbr.]
63. __. number

Yesterday's Crossword



Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

3		9		7	1			8
	4		6					5
	2		3				9	
2							5	
		4	1		3	7		
	6							1
	3				5		7	
4					9		2	
9			7	2		4		

Yesterday's Sudoku

3	6	1	2	8	5	7	9	4
2	5	7	9	4	1	3	6	8
4	9	8	7	6	3	1	2	5
5	8	9	6	1	7	4	3	2
1	2	3	4	5	8	9	7	6
6	7	4	3	2	9	8	5	1
7	1	6	5	3	4	2	8	9
9	4	2	8	7	6	5	1	3
8	3	5	1	9	2	6	4	7

Weather

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
MAX: 24° MIN: 11°	MAX: 16° MIN: 10°	MAX: 17 MIN: 7°

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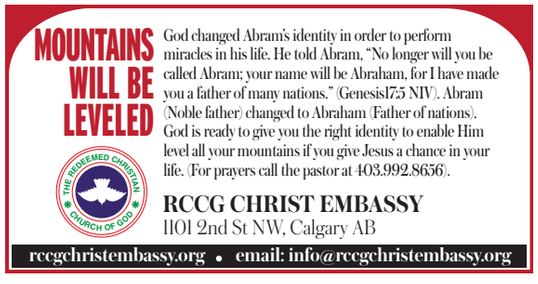

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